



Newsletter

Autumn 2014

Welcome to this edition of Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board's Newsletter

You will have noticed a break in these newsletters over the last few months. That is not due to having nothing to say, far from it, but more to do with the incredible amount of work our small team has been focused on to drive the Board forward and make it even more focused on keeping children safe.

We have launched our **annual report** for 2013-14. Called 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility,' it sums up the massive changes made over the year in sharpening our focus on practice, celebrates some of the successes and sets out the challenges for the year to come. You can find it here <http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/brighton-hove-lscb-annual-report-2013-14/>

You may have also noticed that we have a new look to our website www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk. This is part of our drive to improve our communications with professionals, children & young people, and parents & carers, and we will be able to be more responsive and interactive with our online presence from now on. If you have any comments, or suggestions for what you would like to see on the site please email LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk

One of my commitments was to increase the number of lay members we had on the Board. Following a successful recruitment programme over the summer, I am delighted to announce that we have increased from two to five. All have very different experiences and backgrounds and all will add a hugely important missing voice from the Board itself and the subcommittees.

The Business Manager and I spent a fascinating hour and half at Sussex University speaking with a group of post-qualified social work students this October. We discussed the role of the Board and learned an awful lot about some of the ways we can have more impact on front line practice. They were very open and constructive and we look forward to taking their thoughts forward in the months to come.

Finally, you will not have missed the outcry following the report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, published in late August. We had already been working very hard to develop our response to this dreadful phenomenon. The Director of Children's Services called a meeting in September which sought to review where we were as a city with CSE and to develop our approach around support, prevention, protection and prosecution. The Board also considered a report on this earlier in the month and we will remain committed to make Brighton and Hove as hostile a place as it can be to those who seek to abuse our children in this way.

I commend this newsletter to you, together with our **Child Sexual Abuse** bulletin also being published and, as ever, we look forward to your feedback.

Graham Bartlett,
Brighton & Hove LSCB Independent Chair



Worried about a child?
mash@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Call **MASH 01273 290400**
emergency out of hours 01273 335905

Learning From National Serious Case Reviews

Did you know that you can read all our previous briefings on National Serious Case Reviews on our website? Visit www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/serious-case-reviews/.

This summer we held our second round of Learning from Serious Case Review Seminars, attended by almost 100 practitioners from health, social care, early years, schools, police and more. These sessions focused on a SCR from Devon, **CN08**, published in April 2014, where a two year old boy was killed by his mother who had mental health problems. These seminars were co-facilitated by Zo Payne from Sussex Partnership Foundation NHS Trust, and Carol King from the Early Help Hub, and gave attendees the opportunity to discuss how the recommendations from this review can be used to improve practice locally.

Comments from the participants after the event showed that they were leaving with a reminder to “think family” when dealing with adults, and to recognise the importance of multi-agency meetings and communication, as well as having a better understanding of different agencies and processes including Early Help.

Many attendees said they will discuss the learning with colleagues in their teams, and the presentation can be viewed [here](#)

Learning Together: Manager’s Briefings – Domestic Violence & Abuse

Brighton & Hove LSCB is committed to informing you regularly of the outcomes from multi-agency audit activity undertaken by the LSCB. It is important that the learning from quality assurance activity is shared with partners and used meaningfully to change practice and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We have produced a short briefing aimed at managers and designated leads to present the findings and recommendations from a recent audit regarding Domestic Violence & Abuse. The briefing is online [here](#) and we would encourage you to discuss at your team meetings.

The audit looked at the Impact of Early Help; Quality of Assessment; Quality of Interventions; Quality of Planning; and Management Oversight. If managers would like access to the full audit report which further breaks down findings per agency please contact us. We want to hear your thoughts on this report so please send any feedback to LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk

Child Sexual Abuse Bulletin

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is one of Brighton & Hove LSCBs priority area of concern, and our bulletin on CSA describes how agencies are working together in the city to prevent this abuse and provide support for victims. The bulletin covers signs and symptoms, as well as information on the work in schools, the role of paediatricians, how Sussex Police investigate both current and historical cases of abuse, and an overview of the national inquiries underway at the moment. Read our bulletin [here](#)

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving the children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Both men and women can be perpetrators of sexual abuse, and child on child abuse is far from uncommon.

If you are concerned that a child may have been sexually abused call the MASH immediately on **01273 290400**. If you think they are in immediate danger telephone the police on 999.

Summary of Learning from Rotherham Inquiry Report

The **Independent Inquiry** commissioned by Rotherham Borough Council into child sexual exploitation (CSE), conducted by Professor Alexis Jay, was published on 26 August 2014. The Inquiry found that around 1400 children were sexually exploited in Rotherham between 1997 to 2013.

Summary of Inquiry Report:

- The true scale of CSE in Rotherham is not known – the Inquiry’s “conservative estimate” is that 1400 children were victims between 1997 – 2013.
- In just over a third of the cases, the children affected were previously known to services
- The abuse suffered was “appalling” with high levels of violence & intimidation and multiple perpetrators. Girls as young as 11 were raped.
- Over the first 12 years covered by the Inquiry, “the collective failures of political and officer leadership were blatant”. The scale and seriousness of CSE was underplayed by elected Members and senior managers in Children’s Services, despite 3 reports known to the Council and the police detailing the scale of the problem, and growing evidence from front line staff.
- The police gave no priority to CSE, regarding many victims with contempt and failing to respond to their experiences as a crime. Victims were treated as being responsible for the crimes committed against them.
- In 2004-5, seminars for elected Members and senior officers presented the abuse in explicit terms - nobody could say “we didn’t know”.
- The large majority of perpetrators were described as “Asian” by victims yet elected members and officers didn’t engage directly with the Pakistani-heritage community to discuss how best to jointly address the issue.
- Several staff described a nervousness in identifying the ethnic origins of the perpetrators for fear of being thought racist. Others remember clear instructions from managers not to do so.
- The Council’s Children’s safeguarding service was put into intervention into 2009 following an extremely critical Ofsted report; it was removed from intervention 13 months later.
- The LSCB oversaw the development of good inter-agency policies & procedures for CSE but the Board’s scrutiny and challenge role was lacking.

Inquiry Report Recommendations:

The report made 15 recommendations, some of which are specific to Rotherham with little broader reference. The following seem more generally useful:

- Senior managers should ensure there are up-to-date risk assessments on all children affected by CSE. These should be of consistently high quality and clearly recorded on the child’s file.
- Managers should develop a more strategic approach to children in care who are sexually exploited. This must include out-of-area placements and cross-border working to minimise the risks of CSE.
- Every effort should be made to reach out to victims of CSE who are not yet known to services.
- A range of multi-agency and joined up preventative services should be available to children affected by CSE.
- All services should recognise that once a child is affected by CSE, he or she is likely to require support and therapeutic intervention for an extended period of time. Children should not be only offered short term interventions and cases shouldn’t be closed prematurely.
- The LSCB should work with local agencies, including health, to secure the delivery of post-abuse support services.
- There should be more engagement by the Council and LSCB with women & men from minority ethnic communities on the issue of CSE and other forms of abuse. The LSCB should address the under-reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse in minority ethnic communities.
- The issue of race should be tackled as an absolute priority if it is a significant factor in the criminal activity of organised child sexual abuse.

Read more about CSE on the **LSCB website**. If you are concerned that a child or young person is a victim of, or at risk of, CSE call the MASH on **01273 290400** or call Sussex Police on 101 and quote Operation Kite.

New LSCB Training Course: CSE - Working with Young People

Facilitated by The WiSE Project (What is Sexual Exploitation) this course will build on the key points explored in our basic CSE awareness course and provide workers with the confidence and skills to work with young people around issues relating to CSE. The day will include a very brief review of the key messages from the basic training therefore this course is only appropriate for those who have previously undergone CSE training. This course explores ways of working directly with young people around CSE in more detail and encourages familiarisation with the resources that can be utilised. There is also an enhanced focus on online safety and police disruption techniques as well as an outline of the local picture of CSE with reference to serious case review recommendations. The first session ran on 5th November, and you can still book spaces for the new year on 15th January or 10th March 2015.



For full details please see [here](#)



Safety Rocks!!

We are delighted to have worked with [Safety Net](#) on their termly newsletter for parents & carers, which has been distributed to 10,000 families through local primary schools.



The autumn edition features advice for parents on bullying by Sam Beal from Brighton & Hove City Council's Standards & Achievement Team, information on Anti-Bullying Week which runs from 17th-21st November, and bonfire safety tips from East Sussex Fire & Rescue. Read it online [here](#).



Protective Behaviours Conference

If you weren't able to attend Safety Net's conference on 19th June 2014 on "Early Help and Protective Behaviours – Testimony and impact of current practice" the presentations, films and full write up of the conference is now available for you to view on their website:

www.safety-net.org.uk/protective-behaviours/pb-conference-2014/

If you would like further information on the conference or Protective Behaviours please contact them on 01273 411613 or email training@safety-net.org.uk



Social Work Survival Guide

Social Work Survival Guide

Community Care & Unison have joined together to produce a [Social Work Survival Guide](#) with advice on dealing with difficult situations & managing stress, and how to get the most from your supervision and CPD. If you would like to share your survival tips with us please email LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk or tweet us [#stressbuster](#)

Twitter

Follow us [@LSCB_Brighton](#) to stay up to date with our latest news & information to help you keep children safe in our city. We regularly tweet about LSCB activity, upcoming safeguarding events and national reports, guidance & campaigns. We also tweet to raise awareness of the key concerns of Brighton & Hove LSCB and provoke discussion on these matters.

Did you know you can sign up to receive our newsletter by email on our website?

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/register_updates



MASH, Early Help & Threshold Document

The way you access Children's Services has changed from September. All new contacts and referrals should go to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, or **MASH**, who can be contacted on **01273 290400** or emailed at MASH@Brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk. Please ensure that all your pathways and documents are changed to the new number.

Alongside the MASH is the **Early Help Hub**, which aim is to prevent problems from becoming more serious, reduce the need for intensive and specialist services and improve outcomes for families. The Early Help Hub will offer a new route for enquiry and referral and will support professionals to target, coordinate and provide early help interventions to families that need additional support. Professionals can contact the Early Help Hub on 01273 292632 or at EarlyHelp@Brighton-Hove.gcsx.gov.uk

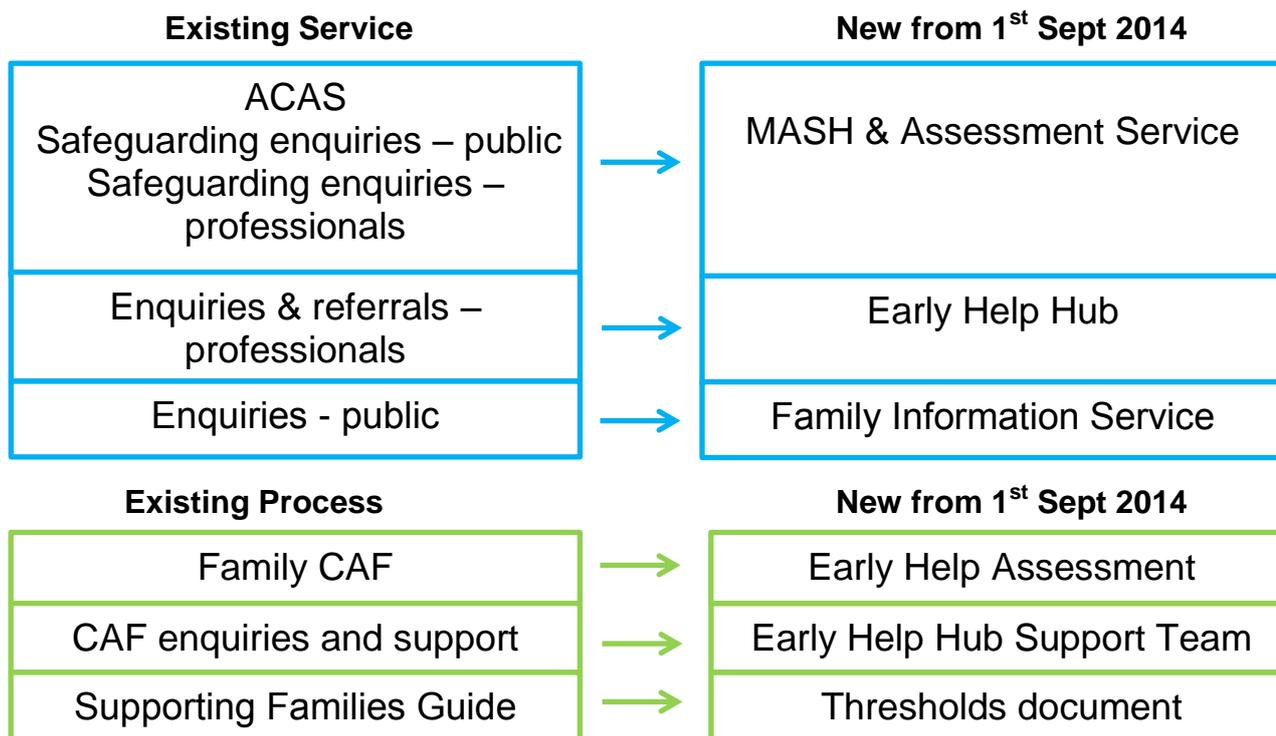
We want all children in Brighton and Hove to thrive and be safe, to achieve their absolute potential and to have good life chances. We are determined to provide early help and support to children when they need it.

Pinaki Ghoshal Executive Director Children Services Brighton & Hove City Council
Graham Bartlett Chair Brighton & Hove LSCB

The Family Information Service contacts are not changing and the public can continue to make contact at: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fis, or familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk, or by telephone: 01273 293545

The new **Threshold document** provides guidance for professionals and service users to identify and assess level of individual need and clarify the circumstances in which to refer a child to the MASH, the Early Help Hub or to a specific agency to address an individual need.

You can view the Thresholds [here](#).



For more information on the Early Help Hub visit:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services/early-help

This includes links to the Threshold Document, the directory of effective interventions, Health & wellbeing services, and the voluntary & community sector, as well as the key documents for the Early Help Assessment.

There are also leaflets available explaining Early Help for [families](#) and [professionals](#)

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child call the MASH on 01273 290400

Working Together in the Early Help Hub

Evalynne Charmer, the Acting Operations Manager of the Early Help Hub Mentoring Team, writes about how the teams in the Early Help Hub have been working together in their first month:

“The Early Help Hub has been set up to have two main functions – a) to receive referrals in from the MASH where a decision has been taken that concerns do not reach threshold for social work intervention, but where it is deemed sensible to contact the family and the referrer and look at what support could be offered to the family in order to minimise further concerns and improve things for them; b) to be the ‘front door’ for all of the services available to children, young people and families across the city – certainly for council-commissioned services, and with a reach to all of the community & voluntary sector agencies as well. This work is managed by three teams:

Support Team: this team comprises of the Family Information Service, together with the previous CAF Support officers, and is the only door that families and professionals need to use to access everything else. This team can advise families directly about anything from where to find a holiday playscheme, to how to get advice on benefits – and also they take all of the referrals into the Hub from professionals and families where there are support needs, for example, they would like a youth worker or a family coach, or there are complex issues that require a family assessment and co-ordination of different services/agencies together. They also take calls from professionals in the city looking for advice and support on cases. These requests for advice and support are passed onto the:

Mentoring Team: comprises currently of 2 Early Help mentors, plus a Probation mentor, and a PCSO mentor. The Support Team pass on enquiries from professionals requiring support, families needing an assessment and co-ordination of services, and where there are complex issues to problem-solve. The mentors meet directly with all of the city’s schools regularly, discussing children and young people and offering advice and support for managing challenging and concerning situations. Sometimes this requires working directly with families, which they might do for a few weeks until things are held in a supported process. They also hold a lot of information about services and agencies available out there which families can be signposted to.

Engagement Team: Some families move in and out of child protection services, and some referrals to social services do not reach their threshold – so when either of these scenarios arises families are discussed in the third Early Help team set up – called the Engagement Team – who work from the same building as the MASH. This team might contact families directly and offer a short-term bit of work to get them into appropriate services – they might not want or need services so there might be a simple communication before closing the case – or there might be the need for more complex support in which case, the Engagement Team pass the case over to the Early Help Support or Mentoring teams to pick up. Please be aware there are strict protocols for the sharing of information and the MASH do not share confidential information with us at the Hub at any stage of the process.

Direct referrals into the Early Help Hub. There are many referrals coming directly into the Early Help Hub which do not need to go via the MASH as there are no known child protection risks. Referrers complete a simple referral form with the parents’ (and young person if it is a request for targeted youth work) consent and this is emailed over to the Support Team. The deadline is 12 midday every Thursday for discussion at the Weekly Allocation Meeting (WAM) which happens every Monday morning. Preparation for this meeting is done by a team of data specialists who collate known information about families to inform this meeting – nothing confidential, but useful detail about whether an assessment has been done previously via the now redundant CAF, whether a family coach is working or has worked with a family, whether any of the youth services have been involved, and whether the family are eligible under the Stronger Families, Stronger Communities criteria which opens the door to access family coaching from ITF and partner agencies such as CRI for example (Crime Reduction Initiative). Reps at the WAM include myself, ITF, early years’ practitioners, health, education, CAMHS, the Youth Service, Engagement Team, Police, Probation, Youth Employability and Youth Crime Prevention teams to discuss the referrals and make a decision as to which service is most appropriate.

The Mentoring Team take the cases which require a family coach and process those – the turnaround for allocating a coach takes one to two weeks generally. They also take the cases where more information is needed in order to make a decision, so will do further investigating and speak to families and a variety of professionals to build a better picture. They also take the cases where an Early Help Assessment (previously CAF) is needed and there is no obvious agency to take this forward. We might look at supporting professionals to undertake assessments themselves, set up a Team Around the Family and identify a Lead Professional – and often complete the assessment stage to get the support process up and running. Sometimes, what is required is a signposting function, so that families can be directed to the services that will benefit them, so they might do a lot of key-working, advocacy or hand holding to get people through the right door. They also provide all of the primary and secondary schools with a point of contact and we also work closely with the PRU (Pupil Referral Unit), Connected Hub and Homewood College who are managing the city’s high end vulnerable students. We link in with Early Help Co-Ordinators, Home School Liaison Officers, Education Welfare Officers, Police School Liaison Officers, the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership, Families of Prisoners and a variety of other partnerships across the city so to build on knowledge and expertise about the city’s most vulnerable families.”

A Guide to the new Children's & Family Act

The **Children and Families Act 2014** came into effect in May 2014, and covers many areas including adoption, family justice, special educational needs and disabilities, childcare, child welfare, the right to request flexible working and statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters.

The Act introduced a number of reforms including:

- Encouraging 'fostering for adoption' which allows approved adopters to foster children while they wait for court approval to adopt.
- Introducing a 26 week time limit for the courts to decide whether or not a child should be taken into care. In some cases, this limit may be extended by eight weeks.
- 'Staying put' arrangements which allow children in care to stay with their foster families until the age of 21 years. This is provided that both the young person and the foster family are happy to do so.
- Introducing a single assessment process and an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to support children, young people and their families from birth to 25 years. The EHC plan will replace statements of special educational needs.

The Department for Education have produced a **Young Person's Guide to the Children & Families Act** which explains the changes in simple terms and demonstrates how they will make things better for children, young people and their families.

There was a table discussion at the LSCB meeting in June 2014, and although the Act brings in some challenges to many services, it will create major changes to improve outcomes for children in care, and those with special educational needs, and you will read more about how this has effected the way we work in Brighton & Hove in future LSCB newsletters. If you would like us to include a story on how the Children & Family's Act has affected your service please email LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk

Understanding the New NHS

NHS England have produced a handy new guide to the NHS, explaining it's structure, governance and how services are commissioned. Read the guide **Understanding the New NHS** online www.england.nhs.uk/nhsguide

Dr Katrina Lake, Assistant Director Patient Experience and Safeguarding, Surrey and Sussex Area Team, and Brighton & Hove LSCB Board Member, explains NHS England's role locally.

"NHS England Area Teams commission primary care and directly commissioned services. All Area Teams commission primary care but some commissioning responsibilities for the population of Sussex are divided between Surrey & Sussex Area Team and Kent & Medway Area Team. Surrey & Sussex Area Team commission specialised services including specialised mental health secure services, and Kent & Medway Area Team commission offender healthcare, secure children's homes and SARC's. We also have an oversight and assurance role with CCGs, which includes safeguarding as well as other functions and services commissioned by CCGs. The Area Team co-ordinate a number of safeguarding networks including a safeguarding commissioning network, and networks for Designated professionals."



Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to this newsletter from partner organisations are welcome. Please send your items by email to LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk or call the office on 01273 292379 to discuss,

Please note inclusion is unfortunately not guaranteed and items may be edited

LSCB Multi-Agency Training 2014-15

Working Together to Safeguard Children 1: Developing a Core Understanding:

18th November & 10th December 2014, 13th January & 26th February 2015

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2: Assessment, Referral and Investigation:

27th November 2014, 7th January & 5th March 2015

Working Together to Safeguard Children 3: Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups:

6th November 2014, 14th January & 10th March 2015

Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People:

20th November 2014, 22nd January & 19th March 2015

Child Sexual Exploitation: Working with Young People at Risk: 5th November 2014, 15th January & 10th March 2015

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities: 11th February 2015

Private Fostering Awareness (half day): 25th November 2014, 25th February & 24th June 2015

MAPPA Workshop (2 hours): 13th January 2015

Download our Training Programme for 2014-15 or visit our website for further information:

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_training.html

The Whole School Approach

In our April 2014 Newsletter we wrote about the Early Help Event held by Moulsecomb Primary School which brought together many professionals from across the city and beyond to explore the idea of how schools and other organisations can offer early help to children and families. At the event, they showcased a this short film highlighting the work they do and the views of our parents and community. This film on [The Whole School Approach](http://www.moulsecomb.brighton-hove.sch.uk) is now available online on the Moulsecomb Primary School website: www.moulsecomb.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board
Annual Report 2013 / 2014

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility



Our Annual Report 2013-14 is now available to read online

<http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/brighton-hove-lscb-annual-report-2013-14/> It outlines how our partner agencies worked together to protect children from harm last year, and contains recommendations on how we can improve on this in the coming year.

The **Executive Summary** gives an overview of the key topics and highlights the main messages for readers.

If you have any comments please email:

LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk

Useful numbers:

Brighton & Hove LSCB office: 01273 292379

Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children: 01273 265788

Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children: 01273 574680

Brighton & Hove Police Child Protection Team: 101

Local Authority Designated Officer: 01273 295643

LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk

