

Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

December 2015

Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

We were joined by new members including the Assistant Head from Hertford Infant and Nursery School and the Deputy DSL from Roedean School. We are pleased to welcome these new representatives, as outlined in [Working Together 2015](#) 'Local authorities should take reasonable steps to ensure that the LSCB includes representatives from all types of school in their area'.



Management oversight, data management systems, inconsistent organisational support systems

A finding for a local serious case review, [Baby Liam](#) highlighted to the Board that the data management systems in Probation Provider Services did not support frontline managers in their daily management tasks. This is because there was no alert system for overdue work. The Review indicated that management oversight was lacking.

Probation Services since confirmed that data management systems have undergone a review and improvements have been made. During its meeting in March 2015 Board were minded to consider whether other partner agencies' data management systems supported managers to safeguard children. At this time agencies were not able to provide the necessary assurances and further discussion was held about this today. Children's Services described how a new performance management information tool has been developed which supports managers to identify gaps in performance on an individual, Pod (team) and whole service level. The tool was described as "forward facing" so will flag when timescales are approaching, thereby enabling managers to take a more proactive approach to performance outcomes. Board propose to revisit how data management systems support good safeguarding in next year's Section 11 audit, which asks all agencies to evaluate their arrangements to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

Review of LSCB Constitution

The LSCB Constitution was reviewed and agreed by all partners. The section on 'working in partnership' has been strengthened following board discussion. This now includes a section which more clearly sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Safe In The City Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, the interrelationships between them in terms of safeguarding and wellbeing, and the means to ensure effective co-ordination between them. You can read the reviewed Constitution [here](#)

LSCB Train the Trainer

The new LSCB [Learning & Development Officer](#) was introduced as an observer to today's Board. He updated on the progress of the 2015-16 Learning & Development programme. Over the past 12 to 18 months the programme has been diminished, due in part to the absence of anyone in the training role to coordinate the schedule, and generally a reduction in the training pool of staff to support delivery. A request asking for interest in the training pool has had a good response and Board were asked to allow expenditure of £2680 from the current training budget line to provide new training pool members with an accredited training qualification. Providing this qualification not only gives the skills required to the people we are asking to deliver LSCB training, but also enhances the quality of that training and provides the LSCB with a firm quality assurance base, being able to say that our trainers have a recognized qualification at an appropriate level. Board supported the proposal and asked the Learning & Development Subcommittee to proceed.

Private Fostering Annual Report

The Quality Assurance Programme Manager presented the annual report on private fostering. You can read the full report [here](#). A private fostering arrangement is one made privately for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. We have seen a year on year increase in private fostering arrangements which could suggest that awareness raising activity has been successful. The LSCB will continue to raise awareness with professionals and the community using social media, newsletters, posters and flyers. LSCB multi-agency private fostering training will be delivered as part of a new LSCB training offer on 'hidden children' which will be delivered as part of the 2015-16 Learning & Development Programme. Criteria relating to private fostering has also been added to the next Section 11 which now asks agencies to evidence that staff: understand the definition of a "close" relative under the terms of the Children Act relating to Private Fostering; are able to clarify the relationship between the adult caring for the child and the child, and so are aware of the concept of Parental Responsibility; and know how to make contact with the Local Authority for advice and guidance about issues relating to Private Fostering.

LADO Annual Report

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) presented the Management of concerns and allegations against Adults who Work, Care For or Volunteer with children annual report. You can read more about this in the LSCB Annual Report [here](#). The Board considered how the trend of increasing referrals over the past four years appears to be continuing, mirrored by an increase in referrals to Children's Services both locally and nationally. Allegations against teaching staff involving the use of restraint saw a significant increase and the Board considered this worrying trend. The LADO updated on work with local schools about this. There has been a review of safeguarding processes regarding the licensing of taxi drivers within the Hackney Carriage Licencing Team (HCLT), whereby a drivers 'suitability', and whether an individual is considered 'a fit and proper person', is being scrutinised more robustly, post Rotherham. Hackney Carriage Services ordinarily fall outside the reporting remit of LADO's, except for those contracted to provide Home to School transport. The LADO considers there is a role to assist HCLT's colleagues in evidencing the suitability of drivers from children's safeguarding perspective. As a result, the LADO and the HCLT have developed closer liaison and collaboration. Sussex Police agreed to look again at what information they can provide that will assist contextualising DBS disclosure to support risk management.

Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2015



Board reflected on headlines from the seventh annual report of the CDOP (read the Executive Summary [here](#)). The CDOP is the inter-agency forum that meets bi-monthly to review the deaths of all children normally resident in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. During 2014-2015 there were a total of 16 deaths of children who were resident Brighton & Hove notified to the CDOP. There have been 118 child deaths notified to CDOP from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2015, of these 57% died between 1 and 27 days.

Some concerns were raised about a partner agency's lack of knowledge about child death responsibilities and a gap in training in this area. In addition to the CDOP, the LSCB is also accountable for the Rapid Response to all unexpected child deaths under [Safeguarding procedures](#) and [Working Together 2015](#). Board noted the gap and requested the agency take the lead on this as a priority, at all levels of operational seniority.

Recommendations from the CDOP Panel to Brighton & Hove LSCB

- Seek re-assurance from Brighton & Sussex University Hospital Trust that services are operating in accordance with [NICE guidance](#) on Feverish Illness in Children (2013) and how this is being monitored.
- Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England Area Team to provide a reminder to all health professionals of the importance of listening to parents when they report that their children are acutely unwell and to encourage parents to bring the child back for further assessment if the child's health does not improve or deteriorates.
- Request regular updates from the Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group on the implementation of the Action Plan relating to communication difficulties between community services, local hospital and specialist tertiary centre.

Table Discussions

MARAC Annual Report

MARAC (Multi-Agency-Risk-Assessment-Conference) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. A victim/survivor should be referred to the relevant MARAC if they are an adult (16+) who resides in the borough and are at high risk of domestic violence from their adult (16+) partner, ex-partner or family member.

In 2014/15 the MARAC discussed 467 cases. Of the cases heard, 51% involved victims with children. In total, there were 361 children associated with these cases. From the 1st September 2015 responsibility for the management of the MARAC transferred to the Joint Domestic, Sexual Violence & Abuse and Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Unit.

There is further work underway to review the MARAC process, making and implementing recommendations to deliver a second generation MARAC process with the capacity to link to Children Service and Early Help 'front doors', as well as arrangements for the delivery of the national 'Troubled Families' programme.

In September 2014 the LSCB carried out an in depth multi-agency audit to assure itself of how well agencies were working together to safeguard children and young people who experience DVA. You can read about this audit [here](#).

Safeguarding in Schools Audit

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) states that under Section 14B of the Children Act 2004 the LSCB can require schools or colleges to supply information in order for the LSCB to perform its functions. Under this authority schools are requested to complete annually a safeguarding audit. This is a self-assessment tool which requires schools to rate themselves as red, amber or green against 50 safeguarding standards.

Schools engaged willingly with this process this year with 100% of establishments submitting an audit. Thirteen Independent schools were approached to complete the audit: six schools have already done so. Significant modifications in the tool this year included self-assessing that:

- Staff are proactive in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage (FM) and Radicalisation. There is a focus on prevention, early identification and intervention; this includes appropriate policies or guidelines on responding to these matters. There is appropriate coverage of these topics within the curriculum to raise awareness and prevention.

For all schools the vast majority of the 50 standards are rated as green, reflecting that the schools have appropriate systems in place to safeguard children. Sixteen schools assessed at least one area of their practice to be red. In most cases the area which was rated as red was the new addition relating to CSE, FGM, Forced Marriage and Radicalisation. Board has been assured that recognition and response to self-harm will be incorporated in next year's audit.

Core group and network meeting audit action plan

The LSCB undertook an audit to examine the effectiveness of multi-agency working through Network Meetings & [Core Groups](#). A recommendation from this audit was for Chairing of Network Meetings & Core Groups to be a multi-agency responsibility. This was challenged by Board, the Executive Director of Children's Services would like Children's Services as the lead agency to continue chairing these meetings.

Another recommendation was for minutes of the meeting to be kept simple with the focus of the meeting on the child's plan with progress made/changes required recorded on the plan and updated. This recommendation was agreed, alongside one that ensure that a record of the meeting (whether this is minutes or an updated plan) is recorded and circulated to members within 2 weeks. The Principal Social Worker and the Quality Assurance Programme Manager will lead on this quality assurance work. The Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee will be requested to draw up a directory of family friendly venues following feedback from parents during the audit. The Learning & Development Officer has been tasked with ensuring parents feedback and clear messages about minuting taking expectations are incorporated in future LSCB Core Group training offers. You can read more about this audit [here](#)



Following feedback to the Participation & Engagement Subcommittee the Board have agreed that the minutes of the quarterly meetings will be published on the LSCB Website, www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk. This is to reflect #yourLSCB's commitment to a culture of openness, and as a reminder that **Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility**.

If you would have any questions or comments on this briefing please contact the Board's office at LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk