



Brighton & Hove
LSCB
 local safeguarding
 children board

Board Meeting Briefing: July 2014

Working Together to Safeguard Children

Welcome to the second Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 3 June 2014 and was well attended by Board members. This briefing will give you a brief flavour of the topics discussed.

To continue to ensure the Board is well coordinated and constantly challenging the effectiveness of what is done by its partner agencies, we ran this meeting in a slightly different way. We allocated time to discuss a range of topics in smaller groups as well as having whole Board discussions. We wanted to trial this approach to see if it provided a greater opportunity for participation, reflection and challenge amongst members.

Looking again at how effective the LSCB is, we undertook a performance and effectiveness survey to better gauge how Board members rate the efficacy of the Board. Findings from this were encouraging but there is always room for improvement. One of the things the LSCB needs to do on the back of this survey is to look at current membership and representation at the LSCB Sub-Committees to make sure it is diverse, stable and active.

Child Protection Liaison Group (CPLG) Annual Report

The Child Protection Liaison Group (CPLG), meets monthly and is well attended by health, social care and police colleagues. This group meets to discuss individual cases that may have implications for wider practice, and to ensure that different agencies are working together efficiently on a day to day basis, and remain informed about local & national developments in safeguarding. The Chair of this group gave the Board an update on the group's activity over the past year. An example of their work includes formalising the referral pathway for dealing with suspected bruises or skin marks in immobile babies, which can be viewed [here](#). They also created a leaflet to explain these procedures to parents called "My baby has an unusual skin mark..."

Monitoring & Evaluation Sub Committee Annual Report

The Monitoring & Evaluation Sub Committee's annual report was presented to Board.

Amongst the audit and quality checking activity that has taken place over the year, was a multi agency audit looking at cases involving children subject to child protection plans and children subject to child in need plans. This year's audit themes include CSA, neglect and domestic violence.

Participation & Engagement Sub Committee Update

The Participation & Engagement Sub Committee updated the Board on their activity to improve communication about safeguarding children to the public and the wider workforce. Their first meeting as a formal Sub Committee took place in May 2014 and was well attended by representatives from Board partner agencies. The Participation & Engagement Sub Committee are currently working on a Value Set, which will be the mission statement of the LSCB and bring to life the principals we work to.

We have begun more consultation work with parents and young people on our communications, and some of these will influence changes in our July website update. Young people who are engaged with local charity, [Right Here](#), have produced the LSCB webpages on Self Harm for [parents, young people](#) and [professionals](#). Young Carers from Brighton & Hove produced a LSCB Bulletin in honour of Carers Week which you can see [here](#).

Our upcoming newsletter themes are Child Sexual Abuse, Safeguarding in sport & community groups, and Private Fostering.

Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector



LSCB Business Plan 2013 – 2016: An update on #yourLSCB 's key priorities

You can read the full LSCB business plan [here](#). The Board agreed our business plan at the development day in June 2013, and one year on we presented an update with our key milestones for each priority area.

PRIORITY AREA 1: RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Children and young people in Brighton & Hove are protected effectively from **Neglect**:

- The LSCB has completed a multi-agency audit of Neglect, findings of which were shared at Board.
- Further multi-agency audits under the wider remit of neglect will take place throughout the year and will continue to build on these findings.
- A LSCB Neglect training course for professionals is planned. This will incorporate learning from the multi-agency audits.
- Look out for the September LSCB Safeguarding newsletter which will feature information and updates on city wide activity in response to Neglect.

Children and young people in Brighton & Hove are protected effectively from **Sexual abuse**:

- As with Neglect, an audit has been carried out regarding child sexual abuse (CSA).
- The LSCB are developing a resource pack for professionals working with children which, amongst other things, will outline signs and indicators of sexual abuse. Training or a series of seminars are planned and we will invite staff working with children & families in Brighton & Hove to attend. The Chair has challenged all agencies to ensure awareness raising happens throughout their organisations.
- Lookout for the July LSCB Safeguarding newsletter which will feature information and updates for professionals on city wide activity in response to CSA.

Children and young people in Brighton & Hove are protected effectively from **Sexual exploitation**:

- A child sexual exploitation (CSE) multi-agency audit is planned for Q3 14-15. The audit will focus on how agencies work together to respond to the risk of CSE, how the young persons voice is represented and how this is understood and responded to by professionals working with them.
- LSCB CSE Training is currently provided by Wise to professionals working with children and families in the City.
- Read our LSCB Safeguarding newsletter on CSE [here](#)

PRIORITY AREA 2: PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

The Board continues to try and better incorporate the views of parents and carers, children and young people into multi-agency learning and practice. We are on the look out for additional lay members and would like to attract a diverse selection of members of the public to sit on the Board and represent different communities in our city. This allows the LSCB arrangements to be opened up to further public scrutiny, with an aim of supporting stronger public engagement in, and understanding of, children's safety issues. It is also motivated by awareness that sometimes, local representatives can add a great deal of value to otherwise exclusively professional discussions, helping everyone to stay in touch with local realities, and the issues of concern in our communities. If you would be interested in this please contact the Business Manager at mia.brown@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

We still want to help parents, carers, members of the public and staff and managers to have an improved understanding of the LSCB which is in part why we ask our Board partner agencies to circulate this Board Briefing far and wide.

PRIORITY AREA 3: SERVICE RESPONSES

The Board looks forward to the establishment of the Early Help Hub and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), both of which should be operational by 1 September 2014. 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 and not wait until things get worse for them.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub The MASH will be a co-located multi-agency team consisting of social work staff, police, and staff from Early Help, Housing, Education, Youth Offending and a range of health providers. The **Early Help Hub** will be a team of officers from a range of council services providing information and advice and where appropriate interventions to support the child, young person or family.

Threshold Document: The Threshold Document provides clear guidance for professionals and services users to help them:

- Identify and assess levels of individual need
- Clarify the circumstances in which a child might need referring to the Early Help Hub, the MASH or other specific agency to address their individual needs

The Threshold document can be found at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services

PRIORITY AREA 4: ACCOUNTABILITY

On 30 May 2014 the LSCB held its first Section 11 Challenge Event. This is where we brought together the Chief Executives or deputies of the LSCB agencies to challenge each other's services on how their organisation embeds safeguarding in their policies, procedures and structures. The way we approached this allowed for more discussion and cross sector challenge. Full findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board in September. Our Section 11 Challenge Event helped us ensure the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies to keep children safe in Brighton & Hove, as well as providing them with an opportunity to feedback how the Board can be better coordinated.

Children's & Families Act: Table Discussion 1

The group at this table discussed the amended Children's & Families Act which can be read [here](#). They focused on key points, challenges in implementation and the picture in Brighton & Hove.

Safeguarding in Schools: Table Discussion 2

The group at this table discussed updated statutory guidance, which can be read [here](#). This is aimed at head teachers, teachers and education staff as well as governing bodies and proprietors across all schools, including independent and free schools. It sets out what schools and colleges must do to safeguard & promote the welfare of children & young people under the age of 18.

Early Help, MASH & Threshold Document: Table Discussion 3

The group at this table discussed the challenges of implementing this 'under one roof' service and the positive impact on outcomes for children and families.

CSE Strategic Assessment: Table Discussion 4

The challenges in responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) were discussed by this group. There is the sense that there may be an organisational and individual lack of understanding about what being a young woman in 2014 is like, the need for 'evidence', as opposed to suspicion of CSE was discussed as a barrier to timely interventions. Some Board members wondered if staff were 'scared to ask' or did not have enough professional curiosity or knowledge of the right questions to raise about CSE with the young people they come into contact with. Addressing the risk of CSE is of significant importance to the LSCB, it is important for all agencies, all parents and the general public to know about the risk CSE.

Modern Slavery Working Group: Table Discussion 5:

The Modern Slavery Working Group is a working group of the Violence against Women and Girls Programme Board. The representative of this group updated the LSCB that work is mostly focused on adults and a victim care package is being designed. The Chair of the LSCB proposed a South East Seminar to discuss how children and adult safeguarding boards could best work together on this subject. See [here](#) for some helpful guidance

Management Information Report: Table Discussion 6

We discussed the LSCB Activity & Performance Data Report. Of key concern to the Board was the number of children subject to child protection for a second or subsequent time and the higher percentage of Black, Minority, Ethnic children in the city subject to child protection plans, showing as 29.5% compared to a 21% average over all, and the significant rise in young people being admitted to hospital as a result of self harm. The LSCB have tasked the Monitoring & Evaluation Sub Committee with exploring these issues further.

Upcoming LSCB Multi-Agency Training

Developing a Core Understanding: 11th September, 15th October, 18th November 2014

Assessment, Referral and Investigation: 18th September, 22nd October, 22nd November 2014

Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups: 23rd September, 6th November 2014

Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People: 11th September, 22nd October, 20th November 2014

Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families: 18th September 2014

Substance Misuse & Parenting Capacity: 11th November 2014

Working with Parents with a Learning Disability: 16th October 2014

Safeguarding Children Assessment Workshops: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, September & 7th October 2014

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities: 18th September 2014

Preventing & Disrupting Child Sexual Exploitation: 25th September, 10th October 2014

More information from www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_training.html

Next LSCB meeting: Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Items on our next agenda will include:

LADO Annual Report

Domestic Violence Deep Dive

Safeguarding in Schools S175/157 audit

Section 11 Report

LSCB Annual Report

Thank you Graham Bartlett, Independent Chairperson for providing challenge at this meeting.

If you have any comments please contact us LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk