

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

Welcome to the second Brighton & Hove LSCB Newsletter. We have been delighted with the feedback we have received on the first one and intend to produce these as regularly as possible and would very much welcome your suggestions as to content.

This month we say a fond farewell to our wonderful interim Business Manager, Howard Baines who has been with us since June and has been a real driving force behind the rapid development the Board & it's sub groups have been through in those short months. He has brought to the Board a wealth of experience from many LSCBs & I am indebted to him for his support, wisdom & friendship

By the same token I am delighted to welcome our new permanent Business Manager Mia Brown who joins us from Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust where she was Head of Compliance. Mia was successful from a very strong pool of applicants and her experience in challenging & raising standards in the NHS will be invaluable to our work in protecting children from harm.

At a very busy full board meeting last week, the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2013 was signed off. This report can be viewed [here](#) & it looks back at a year where there was a great deal of focus on responding to the 2011 Ofsted inspection. It is extremely open in setting out our achievements and challenges especially around early help, audit, training & developing our learning from local and national Serious Case Reviews. It also sets out our approach in developing the work of the Board into the future to enhance our efforts to improve outcomes for children

May I wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas and look forward to making the new year a very happy one for all children.

Graham Bartlett  
Brighton & Hove LSCB Independent Chair



### Learning from Serious Case Reviews: Implications for Practice Seminars

These Lunchtime seminars are relevant to all practitioners who work with children and families and also to practitioners within adult services who work with people who may be parents or carers. They will look at the learning from three recent high profile SCRs and how we should apply this to practice in Brighton & Hove:

**Thursday 23rd January 2014 & Monday 27th January 2014**  
**12.15 – 1.45pm**  
**Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk Way, Brighton BN2 5HE**

For more information please click [here](#)

To book a place please contact: [coursesforcare@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:coursesforcare@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### Child Protection Procedures

Did you know that you can access the Pan-Sussex Child Protection Procedures online?

Follow the link from the [LSCB](#) website, or register [here](#) to get email notifications whenever there is an update.



## 2013's Serious Case Reviews

There have been 34 SCR's published so far this year in England, Scotland and Wales. Of the higher profile cases:

- One case dealt with sexual exploitation of a number of girls (Torbay)
- One case was about the sexual abuse of a toddler in a nursery (Birmingham)
- One dealt with allegations of sexual abuse against a foster carer (Bridgend)
- One case was a 13 year old boy who murdered his foster carer (Glasgow)
- One case involved 2 young men who sustained serious injuries in an incident involving a 3<sup>rd</sup> person (Kingston)
- One case involved complex issues of physical and emotional abuse in the context of inter-country adoption (W Case, Local Authority withheld to ensure anonymity of children)
- One case involved the death of a 4 year old boy from a subdural haematoma following months of starvation, assault & neglect (Daniel Pelka, Coventry)
- One case involved the death of a 2 year old boy from multiple injuries (Keanu Williams, Birmingham)
- One case involved the discovery the body of a four year old boy, two years after he died from chronic neglect (Hamzah Khan, Bradford)

## Themes & learning recommendations

**Specific themes** that come through in these national SCRs, include:

- The importance of **historical information**, ie reading old files. **Think Chronology!**
- Understanding that **Domestic Violence** is always a child protection issue
- Good quality, challenging **supervision** is essential.
- The importance of **multi-agency Strategy Meetings**. They are an essential part of a s47 investigation not just a bureaucratic exercise.
- Injuries/bruises to **babies under 6 months** must be treated as suspicious
- The importance of involving **fathers and male partners** in assessments and understanding family functioning
- Children in care placed in **out of area foster / residential Placements** are more vulnerable due to difficulties in supporting placements at a distance
- Decisions about **contact** for children in care can be very complex and can have far reaching consequences in both the long and short term

As in many SCRs there were also:

failures in **communication** between agencies  
a lack of **clarity** of professional roles  
a lack of **co-ordinated** responses  
poor quality assessments, **disguised compliance** by parents  
& **failure to properly obtain and consider the child's view**



Age Range	Number of Serious Case Reviews*	Comments
Less than 1 year	11	These cases include 4 sets of twins who were all under 6 months old 2 babies died as a result of co-sleeping where drugs or alcohol were a feature The other 9 cases all involved non-accidental injuries
1- 4 years	7	3 involved non-accidental injuries 1 involved suffocation 1 involved chronic neglect 1 involved the sexual abuse of a toddler in a nursery
5– 9 years	2	2 children were stabbed by their father on a contact visit following the recent separation from their mother 1 child had blunt force trauma injuries.
10– 12 years	0	
13-15 years	5	1 boy was charged with the murder of his foster carer. 3 boys committed suicide by hanging A group of girls were sexually exploited
16-18 years	6	2 young men sustained serious injuries in an incident. 1 young man died by probable suicide from drowning 2 young women were murdered by men in their social network 1 young man died of an overdose of prescription medication, which is thought to be suicide. 1 young woman died of a drug overdose, in the context of a sexually exploitative relationship.

To read these cases visit the NSPCCs repository of published SCRs

[www.nspcc.org.uk/scrs](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/scrs)



\* these figures exclude the W case and the Foster Carer from Bridgend

## Hamzah Khan Bradford, November 2013

### Background

Hamzah's body was discovered by police during a search of the family home in September 2011, although he died in December 2009 aged 4 years, as a result of chronic neglect. His mother was convicted of manslaughter and child cruelty in October 2013. She had a history of: chronic alcohol dependency; depression; social isolation; domestic abuse; & reluctance to engage with services, including registering children for health & education services.

The issues identified include: invisibility of children to education & health services; failure to take into account the impact of on domestic abuse on children; absence of enquiry into the cultural and religious complexity of the family; insufficient significance given to disclosure by adolescents; lack of professional curiosity; insufficient interagency cooperation and lack of an overall picture of family life.

To read our briefing please click [here](#)

or visit [www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof\\_safeguarding\\_information\\_updates](http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates)

See the full report at: [www.bradford-scb.org.uk/hamzah\\_khan\\_scr](http://www.bradford-scb.org.uk/hamzah_khan_scr)

## What do you know about Private Fostering?

We are raising awareness about private fostering as it is not well known amongst practitioners working with families and even less understood by the public. The term is often confused with looked after children and is actually an arrangement that is made privately and does not involve the local authority. Private fostering is when a child under 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) lives with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. A close relative includes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and step-parents.

The law says that the council must be informed about all private foster care arrangements. This helps us to make sure that all children and young people are safe, happy and doing well and that they (and their carers) are given advice and support to meet their needs.

Privately fostered children are particularly vulnerable, as the arrangements for their care are often made at a time when families are under a lot of stress. This could be as a result of poverty, ill health, family disruption or breakdown or any number of factors.

Sometimes parents do not agree with their child staying with someone else and may believe their child to be at risk. It is vital that arrangements for privately fostered children are assessed to ensure the suitability and that the welfare of privately fostered children is actively monitored and promoted.

Anyone who comes into contact with the child and is aware that they are privately fostered has a duty to inform the local authority.

### **TRY OUR QUIZ: Which of the following are Private Fostering arrangements?**

Answers at bottom of next page

Q1: A 14 year old Chinese student who is staying with a host family in Brighton for 14 days?

Q2: A parent who has arranged for her 3 year old child to live with a Great Aunt for 2 months whilst she recovers from major surgery

Q3: A 15 year old girl who has fallen out with his parents and has been living at her friend's house for the last 6 weeks.

If you think you know a child who is being privately fostered please contact the Advice, Contact and Assessment service (ACAS) on: 01273 295920 or email [acas@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:acas@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk)

You can find more information [here](#)

The LSCB runs one hour briefing sessions on private fostering. To find out when the next session is look at our [Training Page](#)

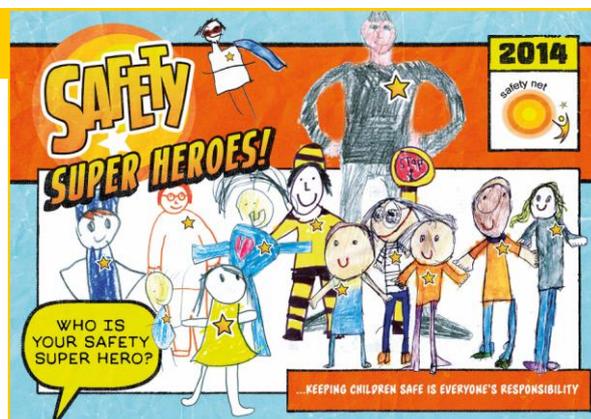
## Safety Super Heroes

2014 will be a year for Safety Super Heroes, with Safety Net's annual calendars being distributed this month via Children's Centres and local Primary Schools. The message for this year is: "Keeping Children safe is everyone's responsibility". During National Child Safety Week in June 2013, Safety Net asked children to nominate their Safety Super Heroes, & many these are featured in the calendar.



For more information on Safety Net's work with families, in schools and in local communities visit [www.safety-net.org.uk](http://www.safety-net.org.uk) or click [here](#) to read their newsletter

More information for safety heroes can be found on the Child Accident Prevention Trust website [www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)



## LSCB Multi-Agency Training

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

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 or Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 or Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 or Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**MAPPA Workshop:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### Serious Case Reviews: Implications for Practice:

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 or Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### More courses for 2014 include:

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

Preventing & Disrupting the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Young People

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

Working with Hostile Families

Private Fostering Awareness

Joint Investigations for Social Work

More information from [www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof\\_training.html](http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_training.html)

## Child Sexual Exploitation

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE), and the Safeguarding Children e-Academy have created a **free online course** for parents to equip themselves with the knowledge to protect their children against child sexual exploitation (CSE).

According to a YouGov poll in 2013, 78% of parents can't identify all the key signs of CSE and 70% of teachers think a lack of parental knowledge is the main barrier to identifying and preventing cases.

For local advice the **WISE** Project, run by Sussex Central YMCA, is a service for 13-25 year olds who are experiencing sexual exploitation or are at risk of experiencing it. It also offers advice & guidance for those working with young people who have suffered from sexual exploitation.



For more information click [here](#) or email [wise@sussexcentralymca.org.uk](mailto:wise@sussexcentralymca.org.uk)

## Youth Advocacy Project

YAP have developed a children's rights based website together with young people. This brings together information about the rights & entitlements of children & young people who receive a social work service. There is also information for professionals [www.bhyap.org.uk](http://www.bhyap.org.uk)



If you would like information about your service to go on the site, or to give us them any feedback on the website please email [help@bhyap.org.uk](mailto:help@bhyap.org.uk)

## Answers to Private Fostering Quiz

A1: No, it would be a private fostering arrangement if the young person stayed with the host family for 28 days or more.

A2: Yes, this is private fostering as the mother has made the arrangement and not the local authority and this is for more than 28 days. A Great Aunt is not deemed a "close relative" under the regulations.

A3: Yes, this is private fostering as the young person has been living at their friend's house for 28 days or more and is aged under 16.

Graham Bartlett's talks to the Latest 7 magazine about the LSCB.

[Read the full article here](#)

## Improving safeguarding outcomes for children with autism

The National Autistic Society is leading a consortium with Tender Education and Arts, Ambitious about Autism and the Autism Education Trust, to improve safeguarding outcomes for children and young people with autism.

Children with disabilities are more likely to be at risk from abuse and neglect than non-disabled children. But, despite this increased risk, they are less likely to be subject to child protection plans. Researchers in the US have found that compared to non-disabled children, those with autism may be especially at risk.

To help understand the challenges that professionals and parents face when safeguarding children with autism, we are running a free two hour interactive theatre workshop.



During this workshop, professionals will have an opportunity to actively explore this issue and contribute to the development of a training model that may be rolled out throughout England.

**Tuesday 28 January 2014 from 10am – 12pm at the Bridge Community Centre.**

**The event is free to attend and can be booked at [www.rsvpbook.com/safeguardingprof](http://www.rsvpbook.com/safeguardingprof)**

### Local Authority Designated Officer

The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is to manage allegations against people who work with children, throughout the city, including volunteers. The LADO works within Children's Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
- possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case, and to help determine whether the allegation sits within the scope of safeguarding procedures. They liaise with the police, social care and other agencies, as well as referring to professional and regulatory bodies such as Ofsted. They monitor the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible and are consistent with a thorough & fair process.

Allegations may not be about significant harm, but about an individual's conduct and suitability. Concerns can arise in connection with their work, their own children or other children living outside their family. They can relate to a current or historical concern. The LADO should be informed of all allegations that meet the criteria within 1 day.

Our LADO is Darrel Clews. He can be contacted for advice and guidance. He will assist in establishing whether any concern or allegation is within the scope of safeguarding procedures.

Any questions or issues regarding Darrel's role, please contact him on 01273 295643 or email [darrel.clews@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:darrel.clews@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk)

### Sexting

In partnership with Sussex YMCA, Brighton & Hove City



Council's Public Health, Standards & Achievements, and the Youth Service have produced guidance in how to approach the issue of Sexting and support young people with this.

Please click [here](#) to read it.

### i-Hop

A new national one-stop information & advice service for all professionals working with children & families of offenders. i-HOP is a web-based knowledge hub, supported by a telephone helpline, that brings together all the up to date resources, including: research, support service details, practice examples, policy frameworks, events & training programmes.

[www.i-hop.org.uk](http://www.i-hop.org.uk)

**0808 802 2013**  
(9am – 5pm weekdays)

### Useful numbers:

Brighton & Hove LSCB office: 01273 292379 [LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

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

