

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

Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) is committed to ensuring children in Brighton & Hove are protected from harm and have the best possible start to life. We are made up of representatives from organisations across the city who work with children & families, including Children's Services, Health, the Police, Probation, Fire & Rescue Service, Schools and the Voluntary Sector. We strive to ensure that all agencies are supported to share information and work together to create positive outcomes for all children in our city.

We have agreed our priorities for the next 3 years which will be actioned through our Business Plan 2013-16. The plan will be progressed by the newly formed LSCB Leadership Group attended by the sub committee chairpersons and myself.

Responses to Specific Safeguarding Concerns: We will focus on strengthening our responses to safeguarding children from neglect, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Participation and Engagement: We will focus on facilitating the views of parents/carers and children/young people to inform our learning and improvement. We will also engage with frontline staff and managers, and we will improve the understanding of the LSCB for the public and practitioners.

Service Responses: We will focus on ensuring the type and level of early help services to be provided is effective in meeting the needs of children and families. We will focus on ensuring there is a prompt and assured response when referrals are made or new information is received about child care concerns through the establishment of a local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Accountability: We will focus on the Board being better coordinated and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies through completing a revision of the Board's governance arrangements, publishing a local Learning & Improvement Framework and completing a review of the LSCB core data requirements.

We hope that you find the information in this newsletter useful and welcome your feedback.

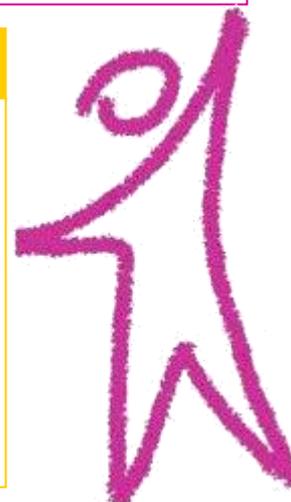
Graham Bartlett
Independent Chair of Brighton & Hove LSCB



LSCB Communications Task & Finish Group

In order for us to improve the effectiveness of your LSCB we have set up a multi-agency Task and Finish Group to further develop our Communications Plan. The first meeting is this November, and they will focus on how we provide information on safeguarding issues to parents & carers, children & young people, & you - practitioners who work with families. They will also examine how we get feedback from each of these groups, and ways in which we can incorporate this learning into our daily business.

The first edition of this newsletter is one step in our project and we would welcome your views. Please send any comments to: LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk. We would also like to know what you would like to see in your newsletter in the future, or if you would like us to include your stories of safeguarding successes.



Key Learning from Recent National Serious Case Reviews

As part of our [Learning & Improvement Framework](#) we look at all Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) that have been published nationally, and identify how the learning from these could improve practice within our city. Please see below for briefings on three recent high profile SCRs.

Daniel Pelka Coventry LSCB, September 2013

Background

Daniel Pelka, 4 years old, died on 3 March 2012 as the result of an acute subdural haematoma (a serious brain condition when blood collects between the skull and the surface of the brain that is often caused by a head injury). Daniel's mother and step father were convicted of murder in August 2013 and sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment. For a period of at least six months prior to his death, Daniel had been starved, assaulted, neglected and abused. School staff had seen him scavenge for food in bins and unexplained marks and bruises on his body. There was a history of serious domestic abuse and violence incidents, a chaotic lifestyle with multiple house moves and alcohol misuse by mother and various partners.

To read our briefing on the case please click [here](#) or visit:

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates

See the full report at www.coventrylscb.org.uk/dpelka.html

Keanu Williams Birmingham LSCB, October 2013

Background

Keanu Williams aged 2 years died in January 2011 from multiple injuries, later determined to be the result of separate incidents with several major injuries being sustained over a period of days. His mother was convicted of Keanu's murder and of 'cruelty to a child' in respect of one his older half siblings; she was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. The mother's partner was convicted of 'cruelty to a child' and received a 9 month suspended sentence. Keanu's mother spent periods of time in foster care subject to care orders throughout her own childhood. Keanu's older siblings were subjects of residence orders to maternal grandfather. There was a history of frequent house moves and periods of homelessness and frequent changes in maternal relationships, including partners met over social networking sites.

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

or visit: www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates

See the full report [here](#)

Family W LSCB not identified to protect the anonymity of the children, June 2013

Background

This review considered the circumstances of M and her "adoption" of children, A, B & C over the course of 16 years and her plans to adopt D (a child of A). A, B, C and D were brought into the care of the local authority following the birth of child D and a disclosure by A. Child D was conceived, following repeated attempts at artificial insemination of child A, at M's direction, over a period of two years. The family was known to a wide range of agencies. A number of criminal charges were brought against the adoptive mother and she is receiving a long custodial sentence.

Whilst this case highlighted learning at a local level, it also raised various complex public policy issues in relation to the purchase of sperm, artificial insemination and surrogacy, and the circumvention of inter-country adoption processes.

To read our briefing on the case please click [here](#) or visit:

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/prof_safeguarding_information_updates

See the full report at www.lscbchairs.org.uk/SCR

Key Learning Points Across These SCRs

This is an overview of some of the learning from these SCRs, please read each briefing for more detailed information.

Focus on the child

It is essential to hear children's views on their care and daily experiences to understand their needs. Practitioners need to "see, hear and respond to the child in the context of their life experiences"

Recording the child's story

No episode should be treated in isolation, but should be considered in the light of what has happened before. Looking at the "here and now" compromises a comprehensive understanding of the patterns of behaviour and family lifestyle. Chronologies or similar types of recording should be central to best practice and inform multi agency information sharing.

Enhancing core skills working with parents

There should be learning opportunities for practitioners to develop skills to deal with parents and carers who are hostile or manipulative. Professionals should assertively challenge any reassurances that domestic violence has ceased or does not affect the children where there is evidence of it occurring.

Commitment to interagency child protection processes

Practitioners should be clear on how to share information between agencies, how to share responsibilities and to critically challenge and assess the information available. When an agency refers a child concern issue to another agency this does not mean they have discharged their safeguarding responsibilities.

Empowering professional judgements

Practitioners should be freed up to use their professional experience and exercise professional curiosity (particularly concerning injuries). Making a decision about their own interventions based on assumptions about the actions or views of other professionals without checking these out, is professionally dangerous practice.

Did you know the NSPCC are now keeping a library of all national published SCRs on their website?

www.nspcc.org.uk/scrs

NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

Ofsted framework released for Inspection of Local Authorities & LSCBs

This autumn Ofsted released a new framework for inspecting local authority services for vulnerable children, which can be viewed [here](#). They will focus on the effectiveness of services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of looked after children, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home. They will also look at the experiences and progress of care leavers. They will judge the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people, and the quality of professional practice locally.

Ofsted have also conducted a consultation on how they will review of the effectiveness of LSCBs, which can be viewed [here](#). The LSCB will be inspected at the same time as Children's Services. Brighton & Hove's inspection may happen this winter. More information is available on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

A list of important dates for 2014:

11th February
Safer Internet Day
www.saferinternetday.org

23rd-29th June
Child Safety Week
www.childsafetyweek.org.uk

10th October
World Mental Health Day

20th November
Universal Children's Day

If you would like us to promote your event related to child safety please email:
LSCB@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Useful web sites:

www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk

www.safenetwork.org.uk

www.safety-net.org.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

www.bhparentsforum.org

www.safeinthecity.info



Brighton & Hove Early Help Partnership Strategy 2013-17

During the last few months a draft **Early Help Partnership Strategy** has been under consultation, culminating in an Early Help Conference on Tuesday 5th November at Hove Town Hall, attended by over 230 leaders and managers from schools, children's services, wider public services and community & voluntary sector services from across our city. The Early Help Partnership Strategy aims to shift the balance of provision towards early identification of issues and away from seeking to solve problems when it may be too late. By identifying issues earlier and providing appropriate support it looks to ensure that problems do not become entrenched. The strategy sets out clearly what we plan to do, and how we intend to work, with an increasing emphasis on the value of Early Help.

Email: early.help@brighton-hove.gov.uk for further information or telephone Daniel Weiner, Early Help Partnership Adviser on 01273 296837

LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE



The Underwear Rule is a simple way that parents can help keep children safe from abuse. The NSPCC's Talk Pants campaign gives parents and carers easy advice on how to teach children that their body belongs to them and to talk to a trusted adult if they ever feel scared or upset. Talking to a child about private parts can seem difficult, but their guide helps you have simple conversations about keeping safe without using scary words or mentioning sex.

Download the guide [here](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear) or www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear for further resources

LSCB Multi-Agency Training

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

Thursday 5th December 2013,
Wednesday 22nd January 2014 or Thursday 6th March 2014

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

Thursday 21st November 2013,
Tuesday 28th January 2014 or Wednesday 19th March 2014

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

Thursday 28th November 2013,
Thursday 16th January or Wednesday 12th March 2014

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

Thursday 14th November 2013

Preventing & Disrupting the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Young People:

Wednesday 4th December 2014

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

Tuesday 18th February 2014

MAPPA Workshop:

Wednesday 19th February 2014

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities:

Saturday 16th November 2013

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



Train the Trainer

Do you have a passion for people and safeguarding? Would you like to learn a new skill? The LSCB is currently looking for more practitioners to join our training pool and help us deliver safeguarding training through out Brighton & Hove. We have a two day training course, which will equip you with the skills to be a trainer, on Wednesday 8th & Friday 10th January 2014. For more information or to apply please contact Michael McCoy on 01273 295993 or email Michael.mccoy@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Useful numbers:

Brighton & Hove LSCB office: 01273 292379 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

