

# Board Meeting Briefing: March 2014

## Working Together to Safeguard Children

Welcome to the first Edition of the Brighton and Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The last Board meeting was held on Tuesday 4th March 2014, and attended by over 30 members from organisations working with families in the city. This briefing will give you an update of the topics discussed. If you have any comments please contact us [LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk)

### LSCB Business Plan 2013 – 2016: Our Key Priorities

The Board agreed our business plan at the development day in June 2013, and we are committed to the four priority areas. You can read the full business plan [here](#), and these areas are commonly discussed in the Board meeting at by the LSCB sub committees.

#### PRIORITY AREA 1: RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Children and young people in Brighton & Hove are protected effectively from  
**Neglect**  
**Sexual abuse**  
 and **Sexual exploitation**.

#### PRIORITY AREA 2: PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

- The views of parents, carers, children and young people are contributing to learning and practice.
- Parents, carers, members of the public, staff and managers have an improved understanding of the LSCB.
- Staff and managers are informing learning and improvement.

#### PRIORITY AREA 3: SERVICE RESPONSES

- The process for the early help assessment and the type and level of early help services to be provided is effective in meeting the needs of children and families.
- There is a prompt and assured response when referrals are made or new information is received about child care concerns.

#### PRIORITY AREA 4: ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Board is better coordinated and ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by partner agencies.

## Update on Early Help & MASH

There has been much progress in Early Help with a successful consultation with 240 delegates at the Early Help Conference on 5 November 2013. You can read the strategy on the [Brighton & Hove City Council Website](#), An Early Help Hub will run in partnership with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This is an innovative approach, not trialled by any other local authority! This will be real (rather than virtual) hub, and will encompass a diverse range of services. It is hoped the Hub will be operational by September 2014.

Establishing the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) continues to challenge. The Brighton & Hove MASH will co-locate a wide range of agencies, including police, local authority children's social care and others, to share information and spot emerging problems early, potentially saving lives. Operating hours are still under consideration but an 8am – 8pm model is being considered. It is hoped the MASH will be operational by June 2014.

'Supporting Families' which will become the LSCB's Threshold Document, has been circulated throughout the city for consultation and comment and was discussed at the LSCB. Its purpose - to help practitioners understand what we mean by Early Help. It was accepted in principle by the LSCB, the real acid test will be how easy practitioners find implementing it.

## Training Sub Committee Update

The Training Sub Committee is well attended with representatives across agencies in Brighton & Hove. The Multi-Agency [Training & Development Strategy](#) and the Training Programme 2014/15 were agreed by the Board. New courses are in the pipeline, which include; Working with Hostile Families & Disguised Compliance, Neglect (incorporating the learning from an LSCB multi-agency audit) and Child Sexual Abuse (drawing from learning from national Serious Case Reviews and LSCB auditing activity). The LSCB Training Manager is looking at ways to better evaluate the impact of LSCB training on everyday safeguarding practice. Over the next 12 months the Training Sub Committee will also focus on evaluating the safeguarding training offered by single agencies to assure the Board that this adequately meets requirements.

A ½ day introduction to [SCIE Learning Together](#) was held on 14 March 2014 to introduce managers from across the city to the principals behind this system of reviewing cases. SCIE actively involves front line staff who worked on the case to create a real picture of why key discussions were made, and use these points to create a window onto the system. These methods can be adapted to a range of cases, from one day audits to full SCRs.

## Monitoring & Evaluation Sub Committee Update

The Board approved the multi-agency audit activity planned for 2014-2015. Audits will be a combination of themed audits – including Child Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, Substance Misuse and Neglect, alongside audits of basic child protection practice.

A multi-Agency Neglect audit was presented, which provided some key learning points in terms of process and identified areas for improvement in relation to practice. Audit findings will inform training and provide a baseline to measure the success of a Quality of Care Assessment tool that is being piloted to help professionals manage and reflect on neglect cases. LSCB multi-agency training on the tool as well as wider issues pertaining to neglect will be developed later in the year. A re-audit of neglect will be undertaken between October – December 2014.

## Serious Case Review & Learning Review Procedure & Guidance

A function of the LSCB is to conduct a Serious Case Review (SCR) after a child has died or is seriously harmed as a result of abuse or neglect in Brighton & Hove. The procedure sets out the arrangements that are in place to respond to SCRs, detailing what happens once a referral is made to the LSCB Chairperson under Chapter 4 of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013). The final draft was given the stamp of approval by the Board and can be found [here](#).

Brighton & Hove LSCB's Case Review Sub Committee meets monthly, and decides how to respond to cases referred for consideration. Where they feel that cases do not meet the threshold for an SCR they may commission Learning Reviews, based on the SCIE methodology, to explore the themes on multi-agency working that emerge and share these findings to improve practice in Brighton & Hove. They also consider the learning from national SCRs and reflect on how they relate to safeguarding in our city.

## Vulnerable Children Monitoring Group

A new group has been established to monitor and scrutinise the work across Brighton & Hove in respect of particularly vulnerable children, for example those subject to or at risk of child sexual exploitation, those missing from home, education and care, trafficked children and private fostering.

The group will be chaired by a community and voluntary sector representative and will include membership from across Education, Police, Probation, Health and Children's Services. Their first meeting will be on Tuesday 6th May 2014.

## Pan Sussex Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategy and Brighton & Hove Action Plan

All three LSCB's working with Sussex Police commit to the sharing of information across local authority borders to protect children and prevent abuse. A Brighton centric action plan has been devised which looks at four areas of work: **Prevention, Disruption, Protection & Support** and **Prosecution**.

Performance and outcome measures and indicators in relation to CSE will be agreed across all LSCB's and will be a topic for much focus throughout 2014.

## Missing Children Policy

The Brighton & Hove Policy for Missing Children was presented and agreed in principal by the Board. This joins together practice guidelines for children missing from home, from care and from education. It also introduces a new risk rating for the missing episodes, looking at the long term cumulative impact that this behaviour indicates, and how agencies should respond to ensure better outcomes for the children & young people. This is separate to the Police's risk rating, which looks at the immediate danger the missing children may be in, and instead views the episode in the whole story of the child.

The policy's aims are to:

- Communicate the Brighton & Hove multi-agency response to & priority given to addressing risks posed by children & young people who go missing
- Raise the profile and priority of missing children
- Define the routes by which all responsible agencies in BHCC and outside share information and work together to respond when children go missing
- Set out core principals and understanding of work & to create a clear single practice guidance which brings together BHCCs individual polices for responding to Children Missing from Education, Home and Care.

The policy incorporates new national **guidance** from the government on missing children including an emphasis on the importance of listening to the child's experience in return interviews, and acting on this information to minimise the risk of repeat episodes.

## Brighton & Hove LSCB Complaints Procedure

This procedure covers situations where a professional, a member of the public or another person with a valid reason requests a response to a complaint in relation to the way the LSCB has carried out its functions. The procedure was approved the Board and can be viewed [here](#).

This is distinct from complaints about child protection conference arrangements for which there are separate **procedures** detailed in the Sussex Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures which can be viewed online at [pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com](http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com)

## LSCB Annual Conference Date & Pan Sussex E-Safety Strategy

The Board agreed the Pan Sussex E-Safety strategy, which includes a framework for organisations throughout the county to build their e-safety policies on.

We will be holding a conference with East & West Sussex LSCBs later this year, which will focus on raising awareness of our priority concerns and related issues including E-Safety

## LSCB Communications

The **LSCB Communications Strategy** and 2014/15 thematic plan was agreed by Board, with full sign up to promote and support the LSCB communication agenda within their own organisations. Four groups that the LSCB communicated with have been identified: professionals, children & young people, parents & carers, and the general public.

A series of themes throughout the year have been agreed, including the LSCB priority themes of Neglect, Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse. These will be championed through our monthly newsletter, which has had a very positive reception, and through social media, where we have an active Twitter presence. Please do follow us **@LSCB\_Brighton**, and retweet to engage your networks in the conversation.

A new Participation & Engagement Sub Committee of the LSCB was agreed. This will meet quarterly after each Board meeting. A focus on doing more consultation work with parents and children's groups will be a priority. The Board Briefing recommendation was agreed as well as the establishment of Interagency Forums – 2 hourly seminars / workshops for professionals across the city to discuss a range of topics. The first **Interagency Forum** will focus on Female Genital Mutilation and will be facilitated jointly by the LSCB and the Violence Against Women and Girls Programme Board. If you would like to suggest a theme please contact Mia Brown **Mia.brown@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk**

## Newsletter theme for next month - Listening to the frontline

The April newsletter will have a feature on Working Together, and we are asking everyone who works with families in Brighton & Hove to answer a five questions in a short online survey here:

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/S7FNGKC>

You can sign up to receive our newsletters by email **here**. If there is anything you would like to see in a future newsletter please email **LSCB@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk**.

## Review of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A paper summarising activity in relation to MARAC in 2013 identifying further areas of development was shared with the Board for information.

## LSCB Activity & Performance Data Report

We discussed the information required to make this report more multi-agency. The Monitoring & Evaluation Sub Committee are working on creating a minimum data set, and the next report will be presented in June 2014.

## Upcoming LSCB Multi-Agency Training

**Developing a Core Understanding:** 24<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Assessment, Referral and Investigation:** 30<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
**Domestic Violence & Abuse: The Impact on Children & Young People:** 8<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
**Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families:** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Substance Misuse & Parenting Capacity** 8<sup>th</sup> July & 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
**Working with Parents with a Learning Disability** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
**Safeguarding Children Assessment Workshops** 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, September & 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
**Safeguarding Children with Disabilities** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Preventing & Disrupting Child Sexual Exploitation** 28<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> July & 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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

## Ofsted Preparation

We discussed the preparation we have been undertaking for when Ofsted visit and how Board members may be asked to be involved by the inspectors.

## Next LSCB meeting: Tuesday 3rd June 2014

Items on our next agenda will include:  
New national guidance from Children & Families Act  
Update on Serious Incident Policy  
Proposal to make Child Protection Statistics more accessible  
Modern Slavery Working Group  
LSCB Training Evaluations