

Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

Autumn 2018



Welcome to [Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board](#) Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 10 September 2018.

Update from Leadership Group

The Leadership Group¹ last met on 30 July 2018 and this was the second joint meeting with the [Safeguarding Adults Board \(SAB\)](#).

General Data Protection Regulation

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) introduced in May 2018, which ensures stricter privacy and data protection, has created some problems for the safeguarding boards.

The issue for the safeguarding boards is that different organisations are getting different advice from their legal teams about sharing information from their records with the boards for quality assurance activity. We have sought advice from Legal services in Brighton & Hove City Council

Read our Privacy Notice here [here](#).
Find out more about GDPR [here](#).

Safeguarding Sussex Week

The LSCB and SAB are partnering with [Safe in the City](#) to run a number of training events aimed at supporting staff to protect children and young people and adults with care and support needs. The week-long series of events begins on Monday 26th November 2018 with a Pan-Sussex LSCB Conference. Other events include: Practical Tools for Trauma Informed Working, Children & Young People Who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviours, Mental Health & Children's Services: Working Together with Families, "Hard to Handle" (Coping with Crying Babies), Introduction to Dual Diagnosis, Transition from CAMHS to Adult Services, and Professional difference and challenge "to question or not".

Full details can be found [here](#).



Newcastle Sexual Exploitation Review

In February 2018 Newcastle LSCB and SAB published a joint review concerning the sexual exploitation of 700 victims, including children, in Newcastle between 2007 and 2015. We published a short [briefing](#) for practitioners to help them understand what the review found and to support their practice.

The review identified 33 recommendations for the NHS, Crown Prosecution Service and government, and another 15 for safeguarding boards.

The learning from this review does not only apply to Newcastle. We know that the exploitation of children does happen in Brighton & Hove and in such instances we work closely with and support partners to make sure it is recognised and dealt with as an absolute priority.

We are devising a local action plan in response to the Newcastle review to influence and shape local services.



¹ This group consists of the chairs of the Subcommittees and helps us co-ordinate the ongoing work to meet Business Plan objectives.

Meeting with Safeguarding Partners & Working Together 2018 Publication

Under new legislation (Children and Social Work Act 2017), all Local Safeguarding Children Boards are to be replaced with new safeguarding arrangements. The board have been busy discussing what the new arrangements should look like. The new partnership will be jointly led by; Brighton & Hove City Council, Sussex Police and Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group.

The discussions were extremely productive and a preference was expressed for the new safeguarding arrangements to cover Brighton & Hove only, with opportunities for joint working across Sussex maximised wherever possible. While the current LSCB and associated policies and procedures remain in place until new arrangements come into force, we will continue to meet to shape the new arrangements and our next meeting will be in November. Progress will be communicated through our usual channels, in the meantime we will continue to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Brighton & Hove.

Persistent Absence from School

Jo Lyons, Assistant Director of Children's Services: Education & Inclusion, advised the board of a national and local rise in numbers of persistent absenteeism from school. Although local primary school attendance is good, there are issues with persistent absence from secondary schools. Children who persistently miss education are increasingly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and a decrease in life opportunities that can have long term impacts into adulthood. See more about the importance of school attendance [here](#).

It was also noted that numbers of children being home educated is rising both locally and nationally, and the board discussed concerns about how to ensure these children are appropriately safeguarded, where appropriate.

We heard about a new local campaign 'Miss School Miss Out'. Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

Exploitation

The Board discussed the development of the strategy and action plan on VVE (Vulnerability, Violence & Exploitation). VVE describes what happens when County Lines drug dealers, who are gangs involved in organised crime, use children and other vulnerable people through Criminal Exploitation, Sexual Exploitation and Cuckooing.

Safe in the city
Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

The children or vulnerable adults are often moved around locally or nationally to carry out criminal acts, a form of **Modern Slavery & Trafficking**. The risks to them are significant, but they may not see this, or may feel trapped in the situation.

The strategy, which sits under the Community Safety Partnership Board, aims to reduce the harm caused by organised crime activity in the city and aims more specifically to achieve:

- Preventing vulnerable people from becoming involved with drug gangs
- Safeguarding vulnerable people who are being exploited
- Providing a safe, supportive pathway to enable vulnerable people to exit involvement with drug gangs
- A decrease in drug gang related activity in the city

The Board discussed the benefits of developing a city-wide exploitation strategy that encompasses all types of exploitation of adults and children. The LSCB/SAB Business Manager will convene a meeting with relevant partners to take these conversations forward.

LSCB Annual Report 2017-2018

The LSCB/SAB Business manager presented the LSCB Annual report, which ran from 31 March 2017 to 1 April 2018. You can read the full report here [here](#).

The report summarised progress made on the priority areas of the business as follows:

Priority Area	Achievements	Challenges
Neglect and Emotional Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There is evidence that learning outcomes of the previous multi-agency neglect audit has been embedded in practice.A Multi-Agency Child Neglect Consultation Group has been created	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A multi-agency assessment tool to support practitioners in neglect cases still needs to be developed
Sexual Harm and Violence Towards Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The LSCB has been reviewed to help it remain alert to emerging risks and issuesThere has been a good focus on supporting victims as well as on acting to prevent harm and violenceLSCB has developed a focus on responses to sexual harm and violence being informed by voices of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More work is needed to understand missing patterns and learn how to reduce repeat episodes in a child-focused way
Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds and Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LSCB continued with our commitment to early helpThe thresholds for early help were clarifiedA strategy was agreed for how agencies can work together to better support the needs of the whole family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is too early to audit to seek assurance about positive and lasting outcomes for children and families
Governance, Quality Assurance, and LSCB Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality assurance activity is strong and helped us to truly understand how effective safeguarding services are in the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LSCB need to ensure that all agencies are listening to the voices of children, young people and their familiesManagement information from key safeguarding agencies still needs to be embedded
Participation and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LSCB continued commitment to sharing learning from all Board activityLSCB showed good outward facing communications for professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There needs to be more engagement from children and young people to develop safeguarding messages on behalf of the BoardLSCB were unable to run the city-wide campaign highlighting the risks of all forms of exploitation and on-line grooming of children that had been planned



Ofsted Inspection

A three-week inspection of Brighton & Hove's children's social care services by Ofsted in July judged the services as 'good'



The inspectors complimented the good partnership working in the city.

Working Well

- Senior leaders know their services well.
- All areas requiring improvement that were raised in the inspection were known to senior leaders.
- Leaders have already improved services, which has resulted in children in need of early help and children in need of protection receiving prompt and appropriate help in line with their needs.

What needs to improve

- Case recording, including the recording of management oversight and supervision, to monitor children's progress and outcomes effectively.
- The response to children in need, including clear plans with appropriate actions and timescales and regular reviews through network meetings
- The progression of pre-proceedings work, in order to reduce unnecessary delay for children.
- The response to children who go missing from home and care, including the timeliness and recording of return home interviews to capture intelligence to inform service delivery.
- The allocation of private fostering and care leaver cases to workers, to allow timely statutory checks and regular visits and contact, in order to ensure that children live in safe arrangements to meet their needs.

National Child Protection Inspection – Sussex Police

Between 25 June and 6 July 2018 Sussex Police were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. Early findings indicated good quality and strength of leadership as well as effective cooperation with partners from across the local authorities.

However it was also found that there have been inconsistencies both in the approach to missing children and in recording, leading to a sometimes inadequate assessment of need. There is also a high number of vacancies and a busy increase in demand.

Further discussions of findings and progress moving forward will be undertaken at the December Board meeting.

See the full inspection report [here](#).



Brexit

One of our Lay Members asked us to reflect on possible implications that Brexit might have on local safeguarding. It has been noted that the local authorities have been evaluating the recruitment and retention of staff since they are quite dependent on people from the EU. Although this was not seen as directly related to safeguarding, there were discussions about potential issues surrounding DBS checking and cross-border information sharing. Furthermore, the Board considered the implications that conversations about Brexit could have on children from our European community and how to generally talk to children about Brexit. The following article was mentioned [The Guardian - how to explain Brexit to children](#)

**The minutes from all Board meetings are published on the [LSCB Website](#).
If you have any further questions about this meeting please contact us at
LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk or on 01273 292379**