

Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report

1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018



www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk
@LSCB_Brighton

Who we are and what we do

- Senior representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies
- We **coordinate** local work by:
 - Delivering a multi-agency Business Plan
 - Developing robust policies and procedures
 - Delivering multi-agency training
- We ensure the **effectiveness** of local work by:
 - Monitoring and scrutinising what is done by our partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
 - Undertaking serious case reviews and audits and sharing learning opportunities
 - Collecting and analysing information about child deaths
 - Drawing evidence from the testimony of children, young people and frontline professionals
 - Publishing this annual report



Purpose of Annual Report

Under **Working Together to Safeguarding Children**, 2015, the Chair must publish an annual report.

- It **must**;
 - Provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local safeguarding services.
 - Identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them
 - Include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period
 - Specifically outline the effectiveness of Board partners' responses to child sexual exploitation and include information on the outcome of these assessments
 - analysis of how the LSCB partners have used their data to promote service improvement, including in respect of sexual abuse
 - Include appropriate data on children missing from care, and how the LSCB is addressing the issue
 - List the contributions made to the LSCB by partner agencies and details of what the LSCB has spent, including on Child Death Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and other specific expenditure.
- Presented to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local police and crime commissioner and the Chair of the health and well-being board.
- One page executive summary shared with front line staff and the wider public through targeted communications and LSCB website.
- Child friendly version in development.



Key messages – Safeguarding Performance

- Number of children with child protection plans has **increased. Higher** than similar areas.
- Children are receiving the help they need in a **timely** way
- Number of children in care (418) is **broadly in line** with 10 nearest contextual authorities (416)
- Number of children on child protection plans under the category of child sexual abuse (16) is **in line** with the national average



Key messages – Safeguarding Performance Cont.

- 31 children are experiencing CSE who are open to social work. Multi-agency meetings held regularly to review the level of risk and a multi-agency plan created to protect the child. LSCB audit last year gave assurance that CSE was being identified appropriately and as early as possible.
- Total number of recorded crime where victims are children has **risen**. **In line** with force average within the county.
- Most common reason for police protection powers being used is involvement with crime, missing episodes, CSE and neglect.



Progress 2017 -18



Priority Area 1: Neglect & Emotional Harm

Brighton & Hove has a higher percentage of children who have a child protection plan in place as a result of emotional abuse (of which neglect is a component)

Achievements

- Evidence that learning from previous multi-agency neglect audit and learning review is embedded in practice.
- Creation of Multi-Agency Child Neglect Consultation Group

Challenges

- Development of a multi-agency assessment tool to support practitioners in neglect cases has not been achieved.
- Roll out of Operation Encompass



Priority Area 2: Sexual harm and violence towards children

Achievements

- Reviewed the effectiveness of LSCB to remain alert to emerging risks and issues
- Partners evidenced a focus on supporting victims as well as acting to find and stop would be perpetrators
- LSCB influenced to ensure that strategic and operational responses to sexual harm and violence informed by voices of children.

Challenges

- New and emerging threat for the partnership
- More work is needed to understand missing patterns and learn how to reduce repeat episodes in a child focused way.



Priority Area 3: Early Help, Pathways, Thresholds and Assessments

Re-referrals and repeat Child Protection Plans are higher than last year and are higher than England averages. Children are being exposed to risk for a second or third time, which calls into question the effectiveness of the intervention already undertaken and the effectiveness of the continuum of need and how families are escalated through it.

Achievements

- Continued with our commitment to early help.
- Clarified the thresholds for early help
- Agreed a strategy for how agencies can work together to better support the needs of the whole family.

Challenges

- Too early to audit to seek assurance about positive and lasting outcomes for children and families.



Priority Area 4: Governance, Quality Assurance & LSCB Scrutiny

Achievements

- Quality assurance activity is robust - helped us truly understand how effective safeguarding services are in the city.

Challenges

- Need to ensure that all agencies are listening to the voices of children, young people and their families, and are achieving a positive impact on children's lives as a result of their own quality assurance processes
- Management information from key safeguarding agencies still needs to be embedded



Priority Area 5: Participation & Engagement

Achievements

- Continued our commitment to sharing learning from all LSCB activity
- Good outward facing communications for professionals

Challenges

- Struggled to get engagement from children and young people to develop safeguarding messages on behalf of the Board.
- Not able to run the city - wide campaign highlighting the risks of all forms of exploitation and on-line grooming of children that we had planned this year.



Future Safeguarding Arrangements

- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Heavily influenced by Wood Review of LSCBs
- Some significant changes to how functions are delivered
- Shared and equal duty on the local authority, the chief officer of police and clinical commissioning group – ‘Safeguarding Partners’
- Partners can choose to cover two or more local authorities
- Each may delegate safeguarding partner duties where safeguarding arrangements extend across more than one area
- Must agree a budget that is proportionate and sufficient
- LSCB Chair & Business Manager presented four proposed models of delivery
- Safeguarding Partners favour Model 2 – adjustments to current structure and arrangements, with more pan Sussex working opportunities explored
- Further meeting arranged for November 2018
- New arrangements published by 2019.



Safeguarding is Everybody's Business



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