



Although a formal committee of Brighton & Hove City Council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults and Healthwatch.

Title:	Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017/18	
Date of Meeting:	13 November 2018	
Report of:	Chris Robson, Independent Chairperson, Local Safeguarding Children Board	
Contact:	Mia Brown, LSCB Business Manager	Tel: 01273 290728
Email:	Mia.brown@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All	
FOR GENERAL RELEASE		
Executive Summary		
<p>The Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) comprises senior representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies and organisations in Brighton & Hove with a responsibility for keeping children safe. The Board co-ordinates local safeguarding activity. It ensures 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 other multi-agency learning reviews, audits and qualitative reviews and sharing learning opportunities, collecting and analysing information about child deaths, drawing evidence from the testimony of children, young people and frontline professionals and publishing an annual report</p> <p>The annual report outlines progress the LSCB has made over the last year in respect to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. It covers the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.</p> <p>This will be the last annual report of the LSCB as we begin the transition to new safeguarding partnership arrangements brought about by the enactment of the Children and Social Work Act. Going forward the Safeguarding Partners – the Local Authority, Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and Sussex Police will have joint responsibility for all safeguarding arrangements.</p>		

Glossary of Terms

LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board
SCR – Serious Case Review
CDOP – Child Death Overview Panel
SAB – Safeguarding Adult Board
CCE – Child Criminal Exploitation
CSE- Child Sexual Exploitation
CSA – Child Sexual Abuse
CSARC – Children’s Sexual Abuse Referral Centre

1. Decisions, recommendations and any options

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1.1 note the report and supports partner agencies in their contribution to keep children safe from abuse and neglect.
- 1.2 note LSCB achievements and challenges, see appendix 1, page 5.
- 1.3 Use its influence to steer and support the development of the new Safeguarding Partner’s strategic objectives. See appendix 2.

2. Relevant information

- 2.1 During this reporting period it was a statutory requirement for the LSCB to publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in the local area.
- 2.2 The LSCB has continued to work in partnership with member agencies to protect children from abuse and neglect, and to minimise any adverse consequences of abuse.
- 2.3 In summary this year:
 - We undertook two multi-agency audits. The first of which highlighted some real strengths in the multi-agency safeguarding response to children with disabilities. The second examined the recognition and response to intra-familial child sexual abuse and results of this activity have helped provide a focus on areas of practice that need to be improved.
 - Two serious case reviews have been published this year. One concerned the death of a 17 year old boy and led us to evaluate the safeguarding response to children as they approach adulthood. The other concerned two siblings who are suspected to have died whilst involved in conflict abroad. This was a large scale and complex review highlighting some good practice and areas for development in supporting children and young people who are vulnerable to exploitation through radicalisation. The annual report shares the learning from both of these reviews.

- Between April 2017 and March 2018, the Child Death Overview Panel was notified of 8 deaths of children who were resident in Brighton & Hove. This is a continued decrease in numbers of deaths from the previous year.
- In total 944 professionals from across the safeguarding partnership attended LSCB multi-agency training events. This year the LSCB training programme has expanded to include further specialised safeguarding training. This has encompassed emerging risks and issues facing the children and young people of Brighton and Hove. Training courses are routinely added to and updated in light of learning from both local and national reviews as well as statutory and good practice guidance released throughout the year. New training developed includes learning offers on Safeguarding Adolescents as well as presentations on Trauma Informed Practice. LSCB training in relation to exploitation has also been reviewed and recommissioned to incorporate all aspects of exploitation, including criminal, radicalisation, sexual and drug related “county lines” exploitation of young people.
- The Early Help Hub, Family Information Service and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub came together in this reporting year to form a single point for all contacts related to supporting and safeguarding children known locally as the Front Door for Families. It was too early to evaluate its impact this reporting year.
- The LSCB has been aware of the emerging threats and risks of county lines activity on children and young people. Whereby local children and young people are being criminally exploited to run drugs and money into rural areas of the county. Whilst criminal exploitation was not identified as a priority for the LSCB when our business plan was drawn up in 2016, we have responded swiftly and robustly to this new safeguarding risk. It is important that we do not shy away from trying to understand and tackle such difficult issues.

2.4 Achievements are listed out fully on page 5 of the report, below are a few of our achievements:

- As a result of LSCB audit work a Multi-Agency Child Neglect Consultation Group has been established which offers a safe reflective space to practitioners and their managers to bring complex and stuck cases where neglect of children is considered to be a primary issue.
- Through the work of the LSCB there is now more effective communication channels in place when children are placed out of county (this relates to both Children’s Social Work and Police), evidence by quality assurance activity.
- The LSCB has influenced to ensure that strategic and operational responses to sexual harm and violence are informed by voices of children, who have experienced this type of abuse

2.5 In 2018/19 the LCSB will cease to function and the new safeguarding arrangements will assume much of the same previous responsibilities of the LSCB. That said, there are some significant changes to how functions should be delivered:

These comparisons can be summarised thus:

Same

- A requirement to undertake case reviews in certain circumstances,
- scrutinising the effectiveness of arrangements

- defining how agencies will work together to improve outcomes for children and families
- using data to assess effectiveness
- learning lessons and improving outcomes for children and families
- publication of an annual report
- expectations around shared funding

Different

- flexibility over how independent scrutiny is built into the arrangements
- broadening of responsibility to three safeguarding partners
- local choice around which organisations should be included within the arrangements ('relevant agencies' selected from a national list of options rather than a defined list of LSCB members)
- choice around geographic area and delegation of safeguarding partner responsibilities
- separation of the child death review function

At the time of writing talks are underway as to how the three safeguarding partners - the Local Authority, Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and Sussex Police – will take forward the new arrangements.

3. Important considerations and implications

Legal:

- 3.1 During this report's reporting period, the Children Act 2004 required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). There was a requirement under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) that at least once in every 12 month period, a LSCB must prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area. The report is to be submitted to the Children and Young People's Committee, the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board, and all member agencies.

Section 14(1) of the Act defined the objective of an LSCB as (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established, and (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes. Whilst the LSCB has a role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains its own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services.

This is the last report from the Board in its current constitution. The Board is in a transitional phase since 29 June 2018 to new arrangements which must come into operation by 29 September 2019. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements, to be determined locally, led by three safeguarding partners (local authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups). It also places a duty on child death review partners (local authorities and clinical commissioning

groups) to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area. The current operation of the LCB must follow statutory guidance relating to transitional arrangements.

Lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 16 October 2018

Finance:

The full financial breakdown, plus the budget forecast for 2018 -19, can be read on page 23 of the annual report. There was an underspend of £53. It is important to note that the LSCB budget does not represent the true costs of the Board's business and development work and some 'hidden' costs are subsumed within the City Council and other partners' budgets.

There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The financial information presented in the LSCB Annual report is accurate and a true reflection of the LSCB financial position within Brighton & Hove City Council's accounts.

Finance Officer consulted: Brian Mcgonigle

Date: 12 October 2018

Equalities:

The LSCB through the City Council and other partner agencies will continue to work to ensure all children and families have access to safeguarding services – particularly those who are less able to communicate due to age, disability, language or for other reasons. The work of the Board contributes to improved community cohesion. Where reviews recommend ways to better meet needs of people sharing a protected characteristic these are provided to the relevant organisations, implemented and monitored.

Officer consulted

Sarah Tighe-Ford

Date: 12 October 2018

Sustainability:

During this reporting period the LSCB was a statutory requirement. Going forward it will need to be resourced jointly and proportionately by the Local Authority, Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and Sussex Police.

Supporting documents and information

Appendix 1: Annual Report 2017-18.

Appendix 2: Recommendations for the Safeguarding Partners from the Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Appendix 3: Presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Board

