

Background

A function of the LSCB is undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on the lessons to be learned.

Under Chapter 4 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, LSCBs should maintain a local learning and improvement framework which is shared across local organisations who work with children and families. This framework should enable organisations to be clear about their responsibilities, to learn from experience and improve services as a result.

Purpose

The Case Review Subcommittee will lead on the local learning and improvement framework so that:

- serious case reviews are conducted on all cases which meet statutory criteria
- reviews / audits of practice are regularly conducted on cases that do not reach the threshold to conduct an SCR but that may reveal important lessons concerning multi-agency working that could improve safeguarding practice in Brighton & Hove
- reviews look not only at what happened in a case, but why, and provide a series of findings to support the Board to take forward lessons
- action from findings result in lasting improvements to services which safeguard and promote the welfare of children and help protect them from harm; and
- there is transparency about the issues arising from individual cases and the actions which organisations are taking in response to them, including sharing the final reports of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) with the public.

The different types of review include:

- Serious Case Review: for every case where abuse or neglect is known or suspected and either:
 - a child dies; or
 - a child is seriously harmed² and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to safeguard the child;
- child death review: a review of all child deaths up to the age of 18;
- review of a child protection incident which falls below the threshold for an SCR; and
- review or audit of practice in one or more agencies.

¹ New guidance around Serious Case Reviews will be considered and included in these terms of reference when they are released.

² * "Seriously harmed" includes, but is not limited to, cases where the child has sustained, as a result of abuse or neglect, any or all of the following: a potentially life-threatening injury; serious and/or likely long-term impairment of physical or mental health or physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. This definition is not exhaustive. In addition, even if a child recovers, this does not mean that serious harm cannot have occurred.

The Case Review Subcommittee will coordinate the following inter-related activity to ensure the local learning and improvement framework is effectively implemented:

- Procedures are up to date and compliant with Working Together 2015 to be 'best prepared' to respond to any referral regarding a serious incident which may or may not fall within the criteria for a Serious Case Review.
- Making recommendations to the LSCB Independent Chairperson as to whether a Serious Case Review should be carried out or another type of review or no action.
- Commissioning Serious Case Reviews or other types of reviews on behalf of the LSCB.
- Monitoring and challenge progress against partner agency and the LSCB's action plans following the publication of a Serious Case Review or other type of review.
- Using learning from local and national reviews to inform policy, practice and the LSCB training programme.
- We share our final reports and findings with Ofsted, DfE, National Panel of Experts, the President of the Family Division and, when the need arises, with other LSCBs in the country

Membership (as at May 2017)

Chairperson	Lead Nurse, Executive Director Clinical Quality & Patient Safety
Children's Social Work	Assistant Director: Safeguarding & Care Head of Safeguarding, Families, Children & Learning
Health Commissioning & Partners	Designated Doctor, Brighton & Hove CCG Designated Nurse, Brighton & Hove CCG Deputy Director, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust Public Health Programme Manager
Education	Virtual School Headteacher
Sussex Police	Child Protection & Safeguarding Manager
LSCB	Business Manager Lay Member

The inclusion of a lay member in the SCR Subcommittee is motivated by awareness that a local representative can add value to otherwise exclusively professional discussions. The role within this Subcommittee is a non-voting one with no responsibility for decision making. The lay member supports challenge against the Learning and Improvement Framework to ensure the LSCB is:

- assessing the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help;
- assessing whether LSCB partners are fulfilling their statutory obligations;
- quality assuring practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned; and
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Also available to the Case Review Subcommittee if required:

Legal Advice	Managing Principal Lawyer
Probation Services	Head of Service for Assessment, Rehabilitation and IOM, KSS CRC National Probation Service Representative
YOS	Head of Service: YOS, ruok? & Adolescent Pod

The LSCB Administrator will provide dedicated admin support to the Subcommittee.

When the Subcommittee is convened specifically to make a decision to recommend to the LSCB Independent Chairperson on the criteria for an SCR, partner agency representatives may be co-opted to provide knowledge of their agency's contact with a child and his or her family or to provide expert advice.

Chairperson

The Chairperson must be a member of the Brighton & Hove LSCB. However, when the Subcommittee is due to be convened to make a decision whether to recommend to the Independent Chairperson on the criteria for an SCR, an alternative chairperson must be appointed by the LSCB Independent Chairperson if there is likely to be a conflict of interests.

Frequency of Meetings

The Subcommittee will meet monthly to undertake the core business and may convene separately to consider decisions on whether to recommend to the Independent Chairperson on the criteria for an SCR.

Quoracy

The minimum requirement for the Subcommittee to be quorate is representatives of three agencies from Children's Social Care, Health Commissioning & Partners, Police and Education.

Accountability

The Subcommittee is accountable to the LSCB and the Chairperson should provide regular reports to the LSCB and contribute to the LSCB Annual Report.

Review

The terms of reference will be reviewed annually. Any changes must be agreed by the Board.