

Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

December 2017



Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on Thursday 7 December 2017 and was the first official meeting for our new Independent Chair, Chris Robson.

We welcomed Martin McAngus as the new lead nurse for safeguarding in Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. We were also pleased to be joined by Gill Brooks, Commissioning Manager, Children's Mental Health & Wellbeing Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group, who presented an update on Children & Young People Mental Health Transformation Plan. Jill Dyson, Virtual School Lead and Gill Hibbert, Education Safeguarding Officer were also welcomed to the meeting to present the Safeguarding in Schools audit, and an additional paper highlighting how schools are monitoring and challenging pupils' experiences of racism in education.

Update from Leadership Group

The Leadership Group is chaired by the LSCB Chairperson and attended by the LSCB Business Manager, Lay Members and Chairs of the LSCB subcommittees. We heard how all our subcommittees are making progress with their work plans.

Accountability & Ownership

The new Chair is keen to continue a culture of mutual challenge and support. He has encouraged all subcommittee chairs to hold their groups to account on delivering improved outcomes for children and their families.

Young Person's Subcommittee

To continue the Board's commitment to improving the voice of child being central to its work, a new Young Person's Subcommittee will be established in 2018. This will be a voice and influence subcommittee, contributing to the aims, objectives and targets outlined in the LSCB Business Plan 2016-19. It will be a student led group which will lead on opportunities to provide a children and young people's perspective on the work of the Board and to advise on the most effective methods for engaging children and young people in safeguarding topics. Initially it is hoped that students at the local universities and colleges will support this agenda.

Update on Working Together Consultation

The three significant changes that are being introduced following the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 are:

- Replacement of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with local **Safeguarding Partners**
- Establishment of a new national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
- Transfer of responsibility for child death reviews from LSCBs to new Child Death Review Partners

It is anticipated that the revised Working Together to Safeguard Children will be published and come in to effect in April 2018, and Safeguarding Partners will have to publish and implement new arrangements between spring 2018 and summer 2019.

Revisions to Chapter 3: At the moment the legislation identifies Local Authorities, Police and Health as the three main **Safeguarding Partners**. They will determine what their arrangements should look like, how they will work in practice; and what geographical area they will cover. They are responsible for funding their arrangements.

Revisions to Chapter 4: Safeguarding Partners will be responsible for overseeing the review at **local level** of serious child safeguarding cases. There will be a Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel which will oversee the review of serious child safeguarding cases of **national importance**.

Revisions to Chapter 5: Child death review partners are the local authority and all or part of any clinical commissioning group which falls within the local authority area. They must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area.

Experiences of Racism in Schools

Experiences and responses to racism in our city's Schools was a learning point from the Sibling W & X Serious Case Review. Whilst there is no longer any statutory responsibility for Local Authorities to collect information on racist bullying, or for schools to supply this, locally we still collect this information. We asked our Education colleagues to present an item at today's Board to provide us with more information about how we are locally responding to racist and religiously motivated bullying.

The Education Safeguarding Officer, Ethnic Minority Achievement Service, and Health & Wellbeing Partnership Adviser collaborate to advise, campaign and train staff in schools to support best practice in schools, and provide robust challenge when schools are weak in anti-bullying; equal opportunities; Safeguarding or PSHE.

Data from 2015/6 indicates that 13% of bullying incidents related to race or ethnicity and 3% to religion on belief.

Children & Young People Mental Health Transformation Plan

Since 2015 the Brighton & Hove CCG have developed and published this plan every year. Many different organisations have helped shape the plan, alongside children, young people and their families. The full plan can be read on the CCG website [here](#).

The vision is linked to learning from local reviews to ensure there is more proactive and outreach support for children and young people. This means providing them with opportunities to build their own resilience, to recognise their need earlier, and to encourage them to support one another and feel comfortable talking about their mental health concerns. They want to embrace digital and social media, to allow children & young people to access services when, where and how they choose to.

Future plans include; a review of delivery and access to crisis support, a needs assessment for self-harm, and a review of specialist mental health support available to looked after children.

Benefits of schools and social care services being notified of all children who come into contact with the police

One of the actions from the [Siblings W & X Serious Case Review](#) was for the Board to explore the benefits, in terms children's welfare, of schools and social care services being notified of all children who come into contact with the police.

Children's social care should already receive notifications through the referrals into the Front Door For Families. However, as highlighted by the review, Sussex Police need to do some internal work to ensure this is happening.

The Board heard about Operation Encompass, currently being trialled in Crawley. This sees schools being notified of any incidences of domestic violence that the police are called to at the homes of any of their pupils, so that they can better support the child the next day at school following this trauma. Sussex Police are keen to roll this out across the county, and widen the remit to include reports of missing children and contacts with police.

There were differences of opinion by Board Members about how to progress this work. In the first instance an evaluation of the pilot in Crawley will be presented to our next Board meeting in March 2018.

Children with Disabilities Multi-Agency Audit

Research shows that disabled children are three to four times more likely to be abused and neglected than non-disabled children. The Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee took an in-depth look at nine local cases to examine how robust and timely the response to disabled children in need of protection is

Strengths

- A good awareness and understanding of safeguarding by staff working with children with disabilities in their identification and response to child protection concerns.
- Safeguarding Plans focused on outcomes, identified risks effectively, and ensured the child's safety was paramount.
- In 7/9 cases The professional network communicated effectively with the child and family, and with one another.

Areas in need of improvement

- In 3/9 not all of the appropriate agencies contributed to the strategy discussion.
- In 3/9 cases Core Group/Network meetings were not held within the timescales.
- There is wide variation in how well the voice of the child is heard by professionals.

Read more in our [Children with Disabilities Audit: Staff Briefing](#)

Safeguarding in Schools – S157/175 audit

Keeping Children Safe in Education states that under Section 14B of the Children Act 2004 the LSCB can require schools or colleges to supply information in order for the LSCB to perform its functions. Under this authority schools are requested to complete annually a safeguarding audit. By completing the audit schools can assure themselves that they are complying with the latest guidance and legislation, and that support and challenge will be offered accordingly from the LSCB and Brighton & Hove City Council. Once again our schools have engaged well with this process, with 100% of state-sector schools completing an audit. Responses were less consistent from our independent and post-16 providers. Overall 80 completed audits were received.

Nineteen schools assessed at least one area of their practice to be 'red' (non-compliant). Appropriate and timely actions to rectify these areas were identified by the schools. The vast majority of schools identified areas for development and an appropriate action plan, even where they have elements rated 'green' (compliant). We heard that two schools, one of which rated all elements green, provided no action planning. Two schools submitted inadequate audits with no evidence and no action planning. These schools will be priority targets for follow-up visits.

Topics most often identified for further development in school audits were [self-harm](#) (42%) followed by [private fostering](#), (33%) and [child sexual exploitation](#) (32%). The 2016-17 audit did not ask specifically about [child criminal exploitation](#) (CCE) as an emerging threat, but this will be included in the 2017-18 audit. The Board were surprised that there appears to be no concern highlighted about support to manage drug use.

LSCB Exploitation Subcommittees

Following the publication of the Sibling W & X Serious Case Review the Board have reviewed the terms of reference for the LSCB Subcommittees that look at child sexual exploitation. It is felt that these need to look at a broader range of exploitation including child criminal exploitation and radicalisation and should be better aligned to the development of the Adolescent Board. The first meetings of our Exploitation Strategic & Tactical Groups will take place in February 2018.

Children & Young People

Exploitation Strategic Group: Will have a membership that consists of strategic leads from statutory bodies who can influence resourcing within their agency. This group will report directly to the LSCB.

Children & Young People

Exploitation Tactical Group: Will sit underneath the Strategic Group. This group will identify themes, trends and hotspots, and look at data from the operational Adolescent Vulnerability & Risk Meeting.

Adolescent Vulnerability &

Risk Meeting: Will look at child level data to support risk management and identification.

Gangs, Drugs and Knives

The Adolescent and Youth Offending Service held a briefing event on 13 November 2017, with presentations from the Margate Task Force and Kent Police Force, to look at the growing issues around gangs and group violence, drugs and knives and the impact upon young and vulnerable individuals in Brighton & Hove.

Although we do not have gangs in Brighton & Hove, as per the Home Office definition, we do suspect that we have children who are being criminally exploited, and we need to work to stop this escalating into the situations that have been seen in Kent and elsewhere.

Currently keeping vulnerable children safe from harm and abuse is a responsibility of the LSCB and we have a statutory duty to co-ordinate safeguarding work across the city.

Existing data intelligence has identified in Brighton & Hove higher than average incidences of substance abuse, crime, mental health issues and failure to effectively tackle gang activity will significantly worsen these problems for the city.

We will be bringing this back for board attention in March 2018.

The minutes from all Board meetings are published on the [LSCB Website](#)
If you have any further questions about today's meeting please contact us at

LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk or on 01273 292379

