

# Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

## March 2016



Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 16 March 2017 and we welcomed Counsellor Dan Chapman, the new Lead Member for Children, Young People and Skills, as well as new representatives from South East Coast Ambulance Service and a secondary school.

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### Update from Leadership Group

The Leadership Group is chaired by the LSCB Chairperson and is attended by the LSCB Business Manager, Lay Members and Chairs of the LSCB subcommittees. The group presents quarterly updates to the main Board on the progress of the [LSCB Business Plan 2016-19](#). All subcommittees are making good progress with their workplans, in particular the [Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee](#) which has been busy exploring how effective services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are in Brighton & Hove.

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### Early Help

The Board were updated on the Early Help consultation that is being conducted by Children's Services. We were advised the consultation will close this spring.

*"Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care" **Working Together, 2015***

The LSCB are in the process of setting up an Early Help Group. This group will play a key role in promoting an integrated and effective early help approach across the city. Each quarter we will be looking at key issues affecting children and families in the City, such as domestic violence and parental substance misuse, and scrutinising the services and support in place to address problems early on to improve the outcomes for children in these circumstances. You will hear more from this group in the coming months.

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### Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Safeguarding Report

The Board were presented with the findings and recommendations from an internal safeguarding review commissioned by Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals. The review, which comprised of looking at internal procedures and meeting with over 100 members of hospital staff, produced a series of recommendations for the agency to address. BSUH was able to update and provide assurance against a number of these which are already being progressed via their CQC improvement programme.

There were aspects of the review which require specific Board attention, for example how the LSCB undertakes and discharges its Section 11 responsibility to support the agencies sustained improvement. The Brighton & Hove LSCB Independent Chairperson has met, and will continue to do so, with the BSUH regarding this and LSCB members will be kept apprised of progress.

The Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee will also be monitoring the agencies progress to improving its safeguarding arrangements.

## LSCB Training

The Board agreed the [Multi-agency Training Programme for 2017-18](#), and heard about the new and updated sessions, including [The Child's World: Reflections in Practice](#) which looks at how to communicate more effectively with children & young people to better hear their voice. One of the facilitators of this session is a care leaver who will talk about their experience of being heard by professionals, in the context of safeguarding.

We are also designing new courses for inclusion later in the year, including a day on Safeguarding Adolescents and another on supporting children to keep safe online.

## Neglect Strategy

A multi-agency working group has been set up to develop a neglect strategy for the Board. They will bring together a range of work on neglect, including learning from a recent multi-agency audit of the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children who experience neglect, as well as learning from a recent review which concerned a long-standing neglect case. You can read more about this review [here](#). The neglect strategy will be published on the [LSCB Website](#)

## New Look: Management Information Report

The Board were pleased to be presented with a new, sleeker, more visually formatted LSCB Management Information Report. This shows clearer data on a range of indicators that demonstrate how effective we are at keeping children safe in the city, alongside a short commentary to give these figures context and meaning. The indicators included in the [main dashboard](#) have been chosen to move away from monitoring compliance in systems to demonstrating outcomes for children and how we make a difference.

The Monitoring & Evaluation subcommittee scrutinise the data on the dashboard closely on behalf of the Board. They also select key performance indicators to be interrogated further.

The Board heard that the number of referrals to children's social care has fallen (year ending December 2016) and the number of children subject of a child protection plan is also down.

## Key Performance Indicator: Self-Harm Attendance at A&E

The Key Performance Indicator that the Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee has chosen for an in-depth analysis at this meeting was the attendances by children under 18 at A&E because of Self-Harm.

Board heard that around 1 in 10 young people self-harm, but only a small proportion will present at hospital. There were 115 A&E attendances for self-harm in 2015-16 in the 10-17 year age bracket, which is an increase from 97 the previous year. However, the admission rate has gone down, meaning fewer of these children are required to stay in hospital. This figure is more in line with the national rate. This may be in part due to the success of the paediatric mental health liaison team based in the Children's A&E, as one of their aims is to reduce unnecessary admissions and ensure people are swiftly followed up within the community.

The Board heard how following last year's pilot, the whole school approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing will be rolled out across all secondary school by May 2017 and primary schools by July 2017. This will be known as the Schools Wellbeing Service, to mirror Community Wellbeing Service that is being implemented in health by the Clinical Commissioning Group. There is also ongoing work to improve crisis and out of hours support for young people, as well as to challenge the stigma around mental health. The second phase of the #IAMWHOLE campaign will begin in October 2017, and the [FindGetGive](#) website for children and young people, to get support for mental health and give feedback on this, will continue to be developed.



#IAMWHOLE

