

Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

September 2017



Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 12 September 2017 and was the last meeting for our Independent Chair Graham Bartlett. Graham was thanked by the Executive Director of Children's Services, on behalf of the Safeguarding Partnership for his support and challenge over the years and for leading the LSCB to achieve an Ofsted grading of Good in 2015. The incoming chair, Chris Robson, observed the meeting and you will hear more from Chris when he takes over the role in November.

We welcomed the new Director of Clinical Quality & Primary Care, from Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and the new Chair of the Violence Against Women & Girls Forum as new Board members. We were also pleased to be joined by the Chief Executive Officer from Community Works, the Principal Social Worker for Brighton & Hove City Council, and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

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 good progress with their work plans.

The Learning & Development Subcommittee are progressing work on this year's Learning Together to Safeguard Sussex week which will bring together the LSCBs and SABs from across the county with Community Safety Partnerships to promote safeguarding and hold a wide range of learning events. The week will run from **27 November – 1 December 2017**, and will open with an LSCB Neglect Conference with a range of external speakers. There will also be a [Safeguarding Adults Conference](#) on **Friday 1 December**.

The Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee are well underway with a multi-agency audit on Children with Disabilities. The second audit planned for 2017-18 will be on familial child sexual abuse. The subcommittee has been asked to link with its equivalent group in the Safeguarding Adults Board to consider exploring how well safeguarding services are improving outcomes for parents with a learning disability.

The Leadership Group considered how the LSCB's oversight and accountability of exploitation will be affected by the formation of the Adolescent Board.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report 2016-17

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) has overall responsibility for the management of allegations of abuse against Adults who work with Children. The LADO provides advice and guidance, liaises with the Police, Social Care Teams, regulatory bodies such as Ofsted and other organisations as needed and ensures a consistent, fair and thorough process for both child and adult. Read more about our LADO at brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/professionals/prof_lado

2016-17 saw another increase in referrals to the LADO, in line with previous years. Key indicators include:

- A significant decrease in allegations against local authority foster carers.
- A significant increase in referrals regarding Sport and Leisure organisations
- The most significant increase in referrals has been within non-Local Authority residential homes following a children's home being deemed Inadequate by Ofsted in July 2016. The Board was advised that the local authority rarely placed any children there, and given assurance that they do not use residential units that have been rated Inadequate.

In the past year the LADO has started to raise the profile within the voluntary sector, and the trend in the steady decline of referrals regarding this sector over the past few years appears to have halted. The LADO considers the percentage still to be disproportionate given it is such a large employment sector, so this work is ongoing. If you would like the LADO to visit your organisation please contact Darrel.clews@Brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Learning from relationships: an evaluation of relationship-based practice

The Principal Social Worker was welcomed to the meeting to present "[Empathy, Tenacity and Compassion](#)": An evaluation of relationship-based practice in Brighton & Hove". The new model of relationship based practice was introduced across Children's Social Work Services in October 2015 after having listened to staff, families and partner agencies. This was a whole system change, including:

- **A new vision of social work for Brighton & Hove** – based on social workers building relationships with families and using those relationships to affect change;
- **Service redesign** – the 'Team Around the Relationship', social work teams redesigned as pods that work collaboratively and provide continuity for families;
- **Supervision model** – group supervision and Reflective Practice Groups introduced across the system as well as relationship-based management;
- **Recording system** – 'One Story' to avoid duplication and provide clarity for families & practitioners.

The ongoing evaluation has shown that the Team Around the Relationship provides the potential to make a difference for children and families. The key messages so far are that, in general:

- Families have a better experience of social work
- Relationship based practice seems to be support safe and stable family lives for children
- The model of practice seems to have decreased demand for high level social work interventions

Health partners gave largely positive feedback but advised there were still some cases where the shared ownership by the team is not functioning effectively in the absence of the lead worker, suggesting that collaborative working within the Pods is not fully embedded across the service. Education colleagues reported improved communication with social work.

A positive outcome from the new model is that, as of this month, they have been no agency social worker use. Low agency usage is often seen by regulators as a predictor of a good quality service.

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: Safeguarding Report

The Board were presented the overview report from Sussex Partnership's internal review of safeguarding adults and children. The review looked at three months to clarify and better understand the form and function of service provision for safeguarding within the Trust.

The key changes that have been put in place following the review are to introduce an integrated safeguarding approach and include:

- A centrally located single point of contact will be established for all internal and external communications, systems and processes.
- Investment has been made to allow for four whole time post equivalents. This will allocate an additional 150 hours per week for safeguarding, 37 for a Safeguarding Adults Advisor, and the remainder on Children's posts across the county.
- Introduction of a single assurance framework and robust governance processes to include evidence of clear reporting lines, roles and robust scrutiny of performance both internally and externally.

SPFT are already seeing a difference as the number of safeguarding incidents referred in the last quarter was almost double that in the same period in the previous year, and the Board look forward to receiving further progress reports.

Early Help Group Update

The Early Help Group are due to have their second meeting tomorrow and will look at:

- The Early Help Self-Assessment, which is based on the Troubled Families approach has been developed to help us better understand how developed Early Help is across the partnership and inform further work
- An update from the Healthy Futures Team
- The rejuvenation of the Early Help Strategy to be an LSCB protocol.
- The updates that need to be made to the Thresholds document following the formation of the Front Door for Families

LSCB Management Information Report

The Board considered the Management Information Report for the first quarter of 2017-18. The finer details of this have been analysed by the Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee who did not find a particular area of concern that they felt needed a more thorough investigation this quarter. Key data considered included:

- There was an increase in initial contacts to Front Door for Families / MASH during the year ending 30 June 2017, from the previous 12 months. A quarter of initial contacts became referrals to children's social care.
- Nearly a quarter of referrals received during that year were re-referrals (a referral within 12 months of a previous referral)
- There were less children in care at 30 June 2017, from at the end of the previous two quarters.

Brighton & Hove continue to have more children on child protection plans than our statistical neighbours. The Board were reminded that the [Baby Liam SCR](#), published in 2015, highlighted that we need to focus on reducing the level of need in the city rather than the number of children on plans who need support.

Participation & Engagement Update

The new joint LSCB & SAB Participation & Engagement Subcommittee had their second meeting last month and the group has agreed that they will align their products where possible as there is a considerable amount of overlap, and the LSCB Communications Strategy will be developed to incorporate key messages on safeguarding adults. Participation & Engagement is a very important function of both Boards, and the recently published [Sibling W & X SCR](#) highlighted the consequences when there are problems with engaging effectively with communities.

The current work plan includes promoting the [LSCB neglect strategy](#) across the partnership, and promulgating the [Stop Look Care](#) booklet that sets out standards for care homes and helps adults with care & support needs and their families better understand what good looks like.

Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016-17

The Board approved the LSCB Annual report for 2016-17, which is a third shorter than the previous years' report as we wanted to be more concise with our messages. It describes our progress against the five priority areas on the [Business Plan](#), and the findings from our multi-agency audits, Serious Case Reviews and Learning Reviews. It also gives an overview of our finances, and submissions from all agencies in the safeguarding partnership. The annual report will be published later this autumn.

