

## Priority Area 5: Participation & Engagement



Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 provides that LSCBs are responsible for “communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so”.

The LSCB believes it is important that the work of the Board is effectively communicated across our target audiences so that they feel informed about work we do to improve safeguarding in Brighton & Hove.

The LSCB is very aware of the need to engage with children and young people in a meaningful way to understand and act on their views and concerns.

### Our progress

- The LSCB have, through the Section 11 process, sought assurance that senior leaders are playing a prominent role in making the voice of the child central to their services.
- We spoke to some year six children from primary schools in the city, to ask them to rate how important they think the LSCB priority areas of business are on a scale of 1-5. We wanted to do more meaningful consultation work with children and young people when setting the 2016-19 areas of focus, but due to a number of factors this was not fully realised. You can read their comments to the side.
- The LSCB has cascaded learning from reviews, child deaths and quality assurance activity to professionals to support their understanding of what is required to improve safeguarding and child protection systems.
- In January 2017 the LSCB joined forces with the Safeguarding Adult Board and successfully recruited an additional four new lay members. This allows greater capacity for Board arrangements to be further opened up to increased public scrutiny and the new lay members are continuing to support stronger public engagement in, and understanding of, children’s safeguarding issues
- The [LSCB Board Briefing](#) continues to be hosted on the LSCB website following our quarterly Board meetings to support parents, carers and members of the public to have an improved understanding of the values and statutory function of the LSCB partnership
- The LSCB have continued to share news and links about good safeguarding practice on twitter. As at 31 March 2017 we have 1566 followers. On average we gain 1 new follower per day. Throughout the year our tweets earned 280,000 impressions, with 969 re-tweets and 871 likes.

How else do you get better at things? You need to listen to know what the problems are and what help they need

Children should be involved as they have just as important views as adults, especially as it is concerning them.

It must be really hard not to have parents that love and care for you and so you would need help from somewhere else

It would change some’s life for the better if they got help

This is really important because kids need protecting. They need to be talked to about this so they know how to keep safe and make the right choices and decisions



Excerpt from Brighton & Hove Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16 This annual report outlines safeguarding activity and performance in Brighton & Hove between April 2015 and March 2016 and illustrates how we as a partnership, and individual agencies, continue to strive towards improving the lives of our children & young people. Read the full report at [brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/lscb-annual-report-2016-17](http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/lscb-annual-report-2016-17)

### LSCB Communications



Throughout 2016-17 the LSCB has continued its work with Safety Net to produce the parent newsletter [Safety Rocks](#). Themes covered this year have included The Kindness Edition: focusing on the importance of kindness in preventing bullying, helping manage stressful times, and looking after ourselves and others; Child Safety Week and online safety; helping children deal with anxiety; the government campaign “Together we can Tackle Child Abuse” which encourages the public to recognise and report concerns; and how to talk to your children about serious incidents including the refugee crisis

From 6-12 June 2016 the LSCB promoted [Child Safety Week](#) to raise awareness across the city of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented.



#IAMWHOLE

During August 2016 the LSCB promoted the [Pride Buddy](#) initiative led by ru-ok? and the Youth Service. This offered a crew of helpers in the Pride park, outside the main event to reduce the risk of underage drinking and substance misuse amongst those young people attending the event.

On World Mental Health Day 2016 the LSCB promoted the [IAMWHOLE](#) campaign. This was a new anti-stigma youth mental health campaign developed by NHS Brighton & Hove CCG in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council and YMCA Right Here, a local mental health project.

SUPPORTING



Also in January 2017 the Participation & Engagement Subcommittee developed a [Professional Curiosity Briefing](#) for staff working with children and families in the City. The briefing, spanning all four LSCB priority areas of business, supported raising an awareness of the need for respectful uncertainty. You can read the bulletin [here](#).

In February 2017 the LSCB joined the 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet' campaign as part of [Safer Internet Day](#).

#### Still to do

- Map agencies engagement with children and young people to have a comprehensive overview of the impact that children and young people's views are having on the improvement and development of services.
- Realise our ambition to directly engage children and young people in designing the annual report.
- Take further opportunities to promote the profile of the LSCB in its role promoting safeguarding and supporting and challenging agencies to work together to improve outcomes for children.
- In 2017-18 the LSCB will be asking partners how the voice of the child is heard within their services. Specifically, the LSCB will be mapping mechanisms in place to receive feedback from children, young people and carers – in respect of safeguarding services/ interventions, hearing what that feedback is and understanding (and challenging where necessary) how changes to safeguarding services/ inventions have been made in response to feedback.