

# Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

## June 2016

Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 7 June 2017 and we welcomed a new LSCB Lay Member as well as the new Business Manager from Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and the Head of Service for the Front Door for Families.

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### 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 workplans. We received a presentation on [Contextual Safeguarding](#) – a fascinating approach to better protect vulnerable young people in the city.

The LSCB Chair, Graham Bartlett, will be stepping down from post in September 2017, and it has been agreed to recruit his successor. More information and details of how to apply can be found [here](#)

Graham has been dedicated to keeping children in our city safe and has been committed in his support to the LSCB. Graham will be continuing his role as chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board and we wish him the every success with his new projects.

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### Early Help

The Board were updated on the first meeting on the new LSCB Early Help Group, chaired by Public Health. Early Help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family early in the life of a problem, as soon as it emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child's life from pre-birth to adulthood, and applies to any problem or need that the family cannot deal with or meet on their own. There was a great deal of enthusiasm at the group's inaugural meeting. The next meetings will concentrate on a how different areas of concern are supported using an Early Help approach, for example, looking at what early help approaches are used in our city's schools to support children's emotional health and wellbeing.

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### Serious Case Review: Child A

On 21 June 2017 Brighton & Hove LSCB published a Serious Case Review on Child A, a 17 year-old looked after child whose body was found on a railway track at the start of last year.

A had been exposed to physical and emotional abuse and neglect in the context of chronic domestic violence in his early childhood, and had been subject to a Care Order since 2004. A had been placed in a number of foster homes, none of which could manage his behaviour, before being placed in therapeutic units from the age of 8. As he approached 18 plans were made to transfer A to a foster home, in preparation for independence, and the review identified that these plans had created tension between the unit and Brighton & Hove City Council as the Corporate Parent.

This SCR is a thorough exploration of the services provided to A and his family over five and half years, and has identified effective systems and good professional practice, as well as examples of systemic weaknesses and areas for development. You can read more in our [Learning Together from Case Review's Briefing](#).

We will be holding some two hour long **staff briefing sessions** for staff from all agencies working in Brighton & Hove to come together and discuss the findings from this review and the implications for practice. These are free to attend, although space is limited, and will run on the following dates,

- [Wednesday 19 July 2017, 1-4pm](#)
- [Monday 24 July 2017, 10am-1pm](#)

To find out more and book your place please visit [brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/event/child-a](http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/event/child-a)

## Neglect Strategy

All children deserve the chance to grow up in a loving, secure family and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Sadly, we recognise that not all children have the same experiences and not all children in our city are brought up in families able to care effectively for them. The impact of neglect on children and young people is enormous. Neglect causes great distress to children, leading to poor health, educational and social outcomes, and is potentially fatal.

The LSCB believe that all children in the city should have trusted, committed and able professionals who are able to swiftly identify and respond effectively to child neglect.

Together with our multi-agency partners the LSCB has developed a [Neglect Strategy](#) for the city, setting out Brighton & Hove's approach to tackling neglect. This was adopted by the Board at our June meeting

In the coming months the LSCB Participation & Engagement Subcommittee will be promoting key messages from this strategy across the city, including with the public. The strategy will be launched officially in the autumn, but you can read it [here](#).

The LSCB have worked with the Social Care Institute for Excellence to produce an interactive **eLearning course** to raise awareness of child neglect. If you are working with children and families and would like to take part, or would like further information, please email us at [LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk). We also run a day long multi-agency training session on [Child Neglect](#)

## Quality Assurance: Neglect Multi-Agency Audit

The Board considered the recent multi-agency audit on 9 cases where neglect was identified. The sample included children over three age ranges; 0-5; 6-11 and 12-18, and open to different levels of intervention from Early Help to Child in Need and Child Protection, including children with disabilities. You can read more about this audit in our [Professionals Briefing](#)

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### Examples of **what is working well**:

- Identification & response to neglect - agency referrals were clear and there is clear evidence in the decision making that the previous history and experiences have been considered
- The majority of plans explicitly identify how neglect will be addressed with a focus on both the parents' and children's needs, and a range of evidence based interventions are being used to reduce the risk of/prevent neglect
- There is evidence of good multi-agency working and the children's views / experiences were considered in most cases
- The child and family's identity and cultural needs are sufficiently considered and addressed in the majority of cases

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### Examples of **what needs to improve**:

- No evidence of using the Quality of Care Tool which has been designed to support practitioners to assess neglect cases and monitor improvement
- Not all cases had an up to date chronology
- In half of the cases there has been drift and delay at some point in the child's journey

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Eight different agencies, including schools, took part in this audit, although a gap was identified with the participation of adult service providers, as all of these cases featured either parental mental health or substance misuse issues. Appropriate organisations will be invited to take part in the future re-audit.

The recommendations from this audit have fed into the development of the Neglect Strategy, and the actions will be overseen by our Monitoring & Engagement Subcommittee

## Monitoring & Evaluation: Annual Report 2016-17

The Board were presented the Annual Report for 2016-17 from the Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee. The group have had a busy year assessing how well partners work together to keep children safe and well. They have also been looking at arrangements in place within partner agencies to quality assure their own services. An action was taken at today's meeting to make sure that all agencies understand the purpose of audit in the same way.

The report looked at the findings from the two multi-agency audits that took place last year. The [CSE Multi Agency Audit](#) took place in quarter 1 and identified some good work with some areas still to be improved. You can read more about this in our [professionals briefing](#). The [Neglect Multi Agency Audit](#) took place in quarter 4 and the findings were presented to the Board at this meeting.

## Training Needs Analysis

Last year the LSCB Learning & Development Officer carried out a Training Needs Analysis on the safeguarding courses offered across the LSCB, Safeguarding Adults Board and the Violence Against Women & Girls Board. He found that there is a comprehensive offer in place, although the Board called for more police and probation colleagues to attend the LSCB multi-agency training. The report makes several recommendations for efficiencies including more joint training with East & West Sussex LSCB as well as closer working between the different Boards three training leads. The Board agreed to develop an eLearning package to give all people working across the city a common understanding of child safeguarding. These actions will be overseen by the LSCB Learning & Development Subcommittee.

For more information on upcoming LSCB training please visit [brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/events-page](http://brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/events-page)

## New: Front Door for Families

The Board were updated on the implementation of the Front Door for Families as a single point of access in Brighton & Hove. The Front Door for Families brings together the Early Help Hub, Family Information Service and MASH with an aim of reducing any confusion regarding thresholds and access to services. Each part still has their own functions but they are all accessed through the one front door which provides families and communities with information, advice and guidance; provides support and advice to professionals already working with children and families; and manages referrals into Social Care and targeted Early Help. This approach will help provide a more rapid response to enquiries and make sure the right support is provided to those who need it most.

The Early Help Assessment has been replaced by a simplified version of the Strengthening Families Assessment & Plan, and now the same assessment and planning model will be used across all levels of need. The assessment will travel with a family through the different services, and Strengthening Families is a clearer model for families to understand. The form is available [online](#) for professionals in all settings to use, and the Front Door will be putting more toolkits and resources online in the future.

They will also be developing the website to include more information for children & young people, particularly regarding mental health and emotional wellbeing in response to the high level of referrals about these concerns. This work will be tied into the new [Community Wellbeing Service](#) which launched this summer as a single point of access for mental health services in the city.

The Front Door for Families telephone number is the same as the MASH's number, and they have also introduced a new [online referral form](#). This is already improving the quality of referrals and is a more efficient use of admin time. A large number of professionals will still want to make a phone call, and they will receive the same rapid response as they did through the MASH directly by calling **01273 290400**. The MASH email address has been replaced by [FrontDoorForFamilies@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:FrontDoorForFamilies@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk).

The Thresholds Document will be revised to take into account the Single Point of Access and will be considered at the September Board meeting.

For more information on the Front Door for Families please read our [Professional's Briefing](#) or visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/front-door-families](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/front-door-families)



