

**Bracknell Forest  
Local Safeguarding  
Children Board**



# **LSCB Annual Report**

**April 2015 to March 2016**



[www.bflscb.org.uk](http://www.bflscb.org.uk)

# Chairs Foreword

As the Independent Chair of the Bracknell Forest LSCB I am delighted to present its Annual Report for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

As a statutory partnership the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) brings together organisations with a collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

This report describes the achievements and the challenges of the Board and its partners in their efforts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people within the borough, and young residents who receive specialist services outside of the area.

During the period covered by this report partners continued to make positive progress in strengthening local arrangements, but were not complacent about the tenacity required to address the enduring issues affecting children and young people and the need for us to respond to emerging challenges.

The [Safeguarding Plan 2016-2019](#) recently published by the Board, builds on the previous Business Plan that shaped the work of the LSCB during the period covered by this report. Both plans addressed the core responsibilities set out within statutory regulation but also seek to address local priorities identified by evidence from children and young people, by staff, by performance data, audits and by our partners.

The LSCB continues to drive for increased transparency and collective challenge and scrutiny both of the quality of practice and services and also that of partner engagement in the LSCB. This is evidence through the LSCB Challenge Log, which is robustly monitored and sets out key issues of concern and is contained in this Annual Report. Despite the impact of austerity measures and further structural change within many agencies, partnership working has remained strong and has driven a number of important initiatives. I have also continued to robustly challenge partner's contribution to the LSCB budget with some success but resourcing for all partners and the LSCB continues to be a challenge.

I sought to strengthen links between local strategic partnerships and continued to promote regional collaboration, and national links to further enhance our work within the Borough. During 2015/16, with the CEO and DCS, I reviewed the LSCB governance arrangements and was in receipt as Independent Chair of a comprehensive appraisal process involving partner agencies. I also had a series of additional meetings with senior leaders in Education, Community Safety, Substance Misuse and Early Help to drive forward the key Board priorities. Meetings were held with the Chairs of the Children and Young People Partnership, the Community Safety Partnership and the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure cohesion of priorities and to raise issues of challenge and I initiated formal links with the Berkshire Family Justice Board to ensure opportunity for challenge.

Overall there have been external processes undertaken, which continue to recognise the positive work of partner agencies in Bracknell Forest. There were Good outcomes in CQC inspections of Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, of Frimley Health Foundation Trust (Wexham Park and Frimley Park hospitals) and Probation as well as a Safeguarding Practice



Diagnostic of Children's Social Care undertaken by the LGA, which recognised progress and described a solid foundation of safeguarding. LSCB multi-agency audits and child protection incident reports continue to demonstrate good multi-agency practice but are clear on areas for improvement which are monitored by the LSCB.

A Serious Case Review undertaken by the LSCB was published in February 16 some years after the original incident due to protracted criminal proceedings. The Action Plan has been actively addressed and is complete but there is a current process underway for all partner agencies to provide evidence of the impact of this SCR and its learning on practice.

While reflecting on the work undertaken during this period, I am of course mindful of the important potential changes on the horizon, of the key messages emanating from [Alan Woods review](#) of LSCBs and the [Government's response](#) to the recommendations. The Review confirmed the need for a multi-agency safeguarding partnership but it is expected that this will be allowed to address perceived local circumstances and need and will be debated by the LSCB and senior leaders in 2016/17.

As in previous years this Annual Report makes particular reference to the learning and the associated progress that has been made locally, which I believe reflects a stronger culture of constructive challenge and a commitment to ongoing improvement. Evidence of this is from the CCG and named GP who have led regional work on GPs undertaking S.11 type process on their safeguarding arrangements.

While recording my thanks members of the Board and those supporting the work of its sub groups, I would like to of course state my gratitude to all those staff and volunteers within the local workforce for their commitment, to safeguarding children and young people.

**Alex Walters**

**Independent Chair, Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Children Board**

*The artwork used throughout this Report was produced by looked after children and care leavers and previously featured in an art exhibition hosted in 2015*

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# 1. Introduction

Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have published this Annual Report to give those working with, and planning services for children, young people and their families an overview of the work of the LSCB, its achievements and the challenges that have been identified for its work in the future as an overview of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements.

The early part of this report provides an overview of the wider environment in which children develop and provides the context to the work of the LSCB. Links to our website and other important documents are provided for those wishing to access more detailed information.



The main body of the report describes the work undertaken during the year to ensure partners have collaborated to prevent harm and ensure children and young people received appropriate levels of early help, targeted services and actions taken, where necessary, to protect them from significant harm.

This report will be shared widely with key partners and stakeholders including; the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Family Justice Board, Bracknell Forest Partnership and Council Executive. Where relevant, specific recommendations are made to these groups in order that we maintain a coherent and coordinated approach to the planning of services and ensuring their effectiveness.

## 1.1 About Bracknell Forest

Bracknell Forest lies west of London, at the heart of the Thames Valley and within the county of Berkshire. Bracknell was originally developed as a 'new town' and since its inception the population has grown continuously.

Although Bracknell Forest is one of the least deprived areas of the country and is ranked 287 out of 326 local authorities in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, these headline figures mask pockets of significant deprivation that undoubtedly impact children and their families.

Information about Bracknell Forest can be found on the Joint strategic Needs Assessment website, this provides a comprehensive overview of Bracknell Forest at ward and borough level (<http://jsna.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknell-forest-profile/ward-profiles>).

Four wards in the borough have child poverty figures above the South East average of 13.2%, and one ward is above the England average of 18.0%<sup>1</sup>.

The latest census information available showed that in 2011, 84.9% of the population of Bracknell Forest was 'White British' and the BME population was 15.1%. The location of the Gurkha regiment at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst has led to a significant settled Nepali community in the Borough.

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<sup>1</sup>The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure (formally the Revised Local Child Poverty Measure or National Indicator 116); taken as a snapshot on 31 Aug 2013.

Since 2001 the proportion of school pupils from minority ethnic groups has increased steadily from 6% to 20.6%. By January 2016, 11.7% of pupils in the Borough had English as an Additional Language (EAL) and 86 different languages were spoken in our schools, although many are only spoken by a very small number of pupils.

The borough’s population is approximately 118,025 (Mid-2014 Estimates, based on Census 2011), but ongoing demand for an increased number of households continued to impact on housing. The population within the Borough is relatively young (median age 38.4 years) and 13.6% of the population is aged 65 or over, compared to 17.7% nationally, although this is expected to grow.

The percentage of pupils at the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a good level of development increased by 10% during the year and was 73%, compared to 66% nationally during 2015.

In 2015, the percentage of young people obtaining 5 or more GCSE grades A\* - C including English and mathematics was 58.9% on first entry rising to 63% for best entry results (includes results for pupils retaking exams). The percentage of young people achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A\* - C is 71.2%. This is an increase on the previous year and higher than national comparisons.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)*	2015	2014	2013
5+ A* - C incl. English and Mathematics first entry results	58.9%	57.0% (53.4%)	61.4% (60.6%)
5+A* - C incl. English and Mathematics best entry results	63%		
5+ A* - C	71.2%	68.0% (63.8%)	90.9% (83.0%)

\* Figures in brackets are national results

The gap for those on Pupil Premium funding (208 pupils) at KS4 showed improvement, reducing to -27.2% for the percentage of young people obtaining 5 or more GCSE grades A\* - C including English and mathematics (best entry).

The best results to date were noted for children in care with 33.3% of children achieving at least 5 A\* - C (including English and Mathematics). Continued success of 100% of the cohort securing at least 1 A\* - G grade was also noted.

417 students took A-level examinations. The A\* - E pass rate at A Level remains constant, with 98.8% of entries resulting in a pass grade, slightly above the national pass rate. The percentage of students achieving A\*-B has fallen significantly, reflecting the national trend; however Bracknell Forest is 7.6% ahead of the national average.

Approximately 17,687<sup>2</sup> pupils are now on roll in primary, secondary and special schools in Bracknell Forest, although there is some cross-border movement of pupils between Bracknell Forest and neighbouring authorities, primarily Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Hampshire and Surrey.

<sup>2</sup> School Census January 2016

## 1.2 Vulnerable Children and Young People

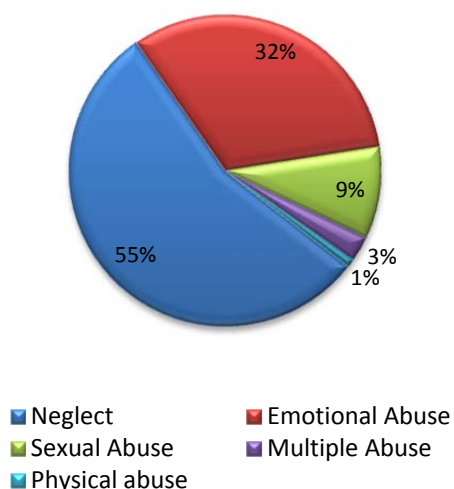
The experience of the most vulnerable children/young people living in the Borough is in sharp contrast to the majority of our 28,000 children and young people (24% of the total population), which the most recent research indicated were happy, healthy and achieving well. [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/survey-of-cyp-2013-report.pdf](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/survey-of-cyp-2013-report.pdf)

While it may be the minority of children and young people who are vulnerable, it is essential that they benefit from the coordinated efforts of partner agencies to help prevent harm, address known risks and to respond quickly to those experiencing abuse and neglect.

The information below identifies the number of children and young people who received early help through a [Common Assessment Framework](#) (CAF or Family CAF), or were referred to the Early Intervention Hub, as well as those with more complex needs who received specialist support from Children's Social Care during 2015/16.

### 1.2.1 Protecting Children/Young People from Significant Harm

#### Children Subject to Child Protection Plan



The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2016 was 115 (a decrease from 122 in March 2015), this was at the rate of 41.4 per 10,000 under 18 population (compared to 42.9 nationally at 31 March 2015).

63 of these plans were made under the category of neglect, which continues to be the highest category of need.

The number of plans made under the category of emotional abuse has increased to 37; the same as at 31 March 2014 (25 plans were in place in 2015).

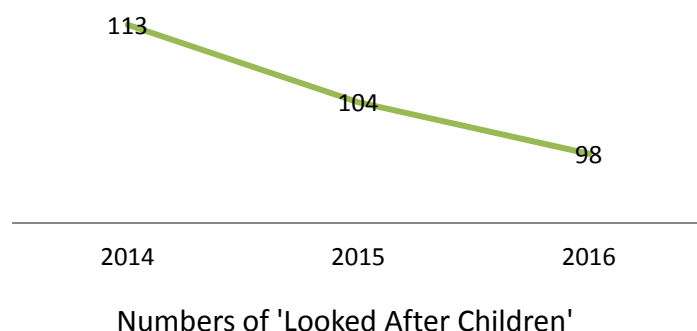
Children subject to plans under the category of sexual abuse remained at a similar level to the previous year (11 in 2016, compared to 12 on 31 March 2015), and the category of multiple abuse decreased from 15 in 2015, to 3 on 31 March 2016.

#### Looked After Children

The number of children looked after by the local authority at 31 March 2016 was 98 (a reduction from 104 in March 2015), this was at the rate of 35.3 per 10,000 population (compared to 60.0 nationally and 49.0 South East at 31 March 2015).

63.0% of children looked after remained in stable placements which they had been in for two years or more, and this continues the improvement seen in the previous year.

17.3% of children looked after had three or more placement moves within the year, this is higher than 2015 (13.5%) and relates to three more children experiencing a placement move during this period.

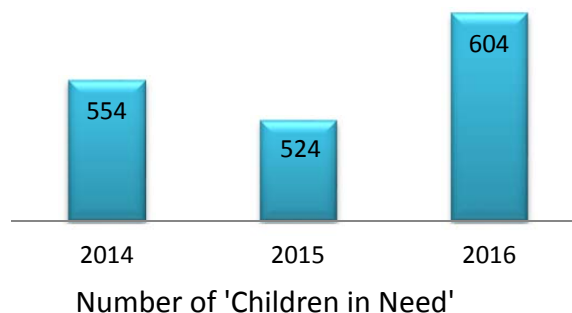


## Private Fostering

During 2015/16 the number of children/young people subject to arrangements identified as 'private fostering' increased from two to five, before reducing again to the previous year's total. The LSCB received details of the Private Fostering Annual Report and were appraised of the activity undertaken by partners to raise awareness and promoted new 'Private Fostering Prompt Cards' to support this activity.

### S17 'Child in Need':

At the end of March 2016, 604 children in the Bracknell Forest area were receiving support from Children's Social Care under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (Child in Need). This is higher than the number in the previous years (554 at the end of March 2014 and 524 at the end of March 2015).



### 1.2.2 Early Indicators of Help

#### Early Help Assessment (CAF)

At the end of March 2016, 306 CAF assessments had been completed within the Borough; this included 72 Family CAF assessments both of which were reductions compared to that reported for the previous year.

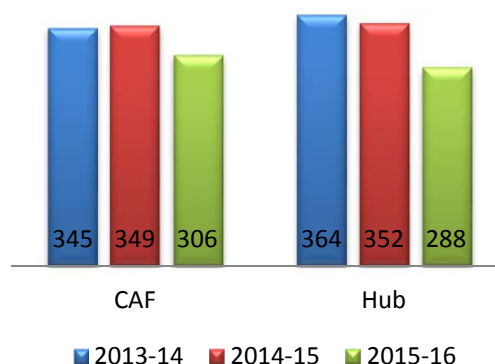
Referral to the EI Hub is the main outcome for CAF assessments, along with a number of multi-agency responses.

544 CAF reviews were completed in 2015/16 which is a significant increase on previous years. This positive increasing trend follows the promotion of reviewing cases emphasised within CAF training, and staff also endeavouring to support the review process through visits to schools.

#### Early Intervention Hub

At the end of March 2016, 288 referrals had been taken to the Early Intervention Hub for a multi-agency discussion. Four of these cases were 'stepped up' to Children's Social Care and 91 cases were 'stepped down' from Children's Social Care for ongoing support at Tier 2.

<http://www.bflscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/bf-lscb-thresholds.pdf>



## Neglect

Neglect is still the highest category (55%) for children subject to CP plans despite there only being three CAFs undertaken where it was identified as a main cause for concern, nor was it an issue for any cases discussed at the Early Intervention Hub. This issue has been discussed within the LSCB. Further information on neglect can be found in section 4.



## Pupil Exclusions

Permanent Exclusions remain very low locally with no change in numbers over the past two years. However it is noted that the two permanent exclusions that did occur in 2015/16 were for primary aged pupils. This, along with the significant increase in primary fixed term exclusions indicates increasing challenging behaviour in Bracknell Forest primary schools. The three main reasons for exclusion were for persistent disruptive behaviour, verbal abuse to adults and physical assault on pupils. Incidents of persistent disruptive behaviour were almost three times higher in 2016 compared to the same quarter in 2015. This is an area of LSCB focus in 2016/17.

## Young Carers

There were 163 young people aged between 8-18 years registered with the Young Carers Project run by Kids. In the new financial year the project will be provided by the local authority.

### 1.2.3 LSCB Priority Areas in 2015/16

Further information for the following areas can be found in section 4:

- Early Help
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse
- Mental Health
- Neglect
- CSE
- E-Safety

## 1.3 About the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The LSCB was established In April 2006 as a statutory partnership board bringing together senior managers from a broad range of organisations working together to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people from across the borough.

Through the leadership of its Independent Chair, partner organisations are individually and collectively held to account and together members of the LSCB ensures it fulfils the regulatory functions set out within the statutory guidance [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (HMGov 2015).

Regulation set out within Section 14 of the [Children Act 2004](#) specifically requires that the central focus of the LSCB is to:

- Ensure the **effectiveness** of local services safeguarding and child protection practice.
- **Co-ordinate** services to promote the welfare of children and families.

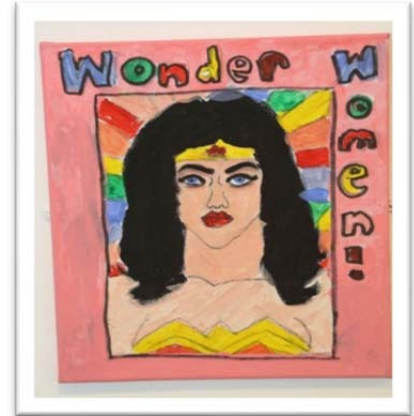
Regulation 5 of the [Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006](#) sets out additional guidance in respect of the Board's role and its functions that further support the above legislative requirements.



### 1.3.1 LSCB Independent Chair

Throughout 2015-2016 the Independent Chair worked closely with all LSCB partners, and played a key role in challenging, advising and supporting agencies. The Chair continued to provide an effective link between the LSCB and a range of regional and national strategic activities and developments.

The Chair is Vice-Chair of the National Association of Independent LSCB Chairs and is the South East regional lead, chairing their network meetings and sitting on its national Board of Directors. As a result the Chair was able to represent local views at regional and national level and brought new and developing ideas to inform local developments.



### 1.3.2 Local Authority Governance

Statutory guidance requires that the Chief Executive of the Local Authority hold the Independent Chair to account for the effective working of the LSCB and this function was achieved through the following activities:

- The Chief Executive was represented at both the LSCB and its Partnership Forum by the Director for Children, Young People and Learning.
- Throughout 2015/16 the Independent Chair continued to have regular contact with the Chief Executive through correspondence and twice yearly meetings with, the Lead Member for Children Young People and Learning, the Director for Children, Young People and Learning and the Chief Officer for Children's Social Care in attendance. These meetings are formally recorded and the Chair provides the Chief Executive with a full report on the effectiveness of the LSCB and partner organisations including the Local Authority. This report is also formally presented to the LSCB.
- In January 2016 following a review of arrangements by the CEO, DCS and Independent Chair it was agreed that these meetings would be held quarterly and would formally include on the agenda issues raised in the other statutory partnerships as the Chief Executive and DCS chair the CYPP and CSP respectively and also sit on the ASB and HWB.
- The Leader of the Council continues to receive regular briefings / updates from the Chief Executive.
- In February 2016 the CEO undertook a formal appraisal with a structured 360-degree questionnaire provided to all members of the LSCB and the LSCB Forum. The outcome was positive and informed discussion on the objectives for the LSCB Chair in 2016/17 which were shared with the LSCB.

## Outcomes:

As a result of these meetings the Chair was able to help co-ordinate the work of the strategic partnerships operating within the Borough and where necessary challenge arrangements to ensure they promoted the safeguarding needs of children/ young people-examples include the misuse of technologies and oversight of the work to support children's mental health.

### 1.3.3 LSCB Membership

During 2015-2016, the LSCB commissioned an external facilitator to help review its functions and membership. As a result members reflected on the work of the Board, its structures and the representation required within its sub groups. Subsequent changes sought to achieve a balance between greater efficiencies and the effectiveness of the LSCB. At the same time a number of partner agencies continued to undergo significant change and/or turnover of staff, which in turn led to the appointment of new members of the Board / LSCB Sub Groups. Following this process it was agreed that the LSCB Partnership Forum would be held twice yearly for a longer time period and adopt a more consultative workshop style .It would continue however to receive a standing item to allow transparency and scrutiny on decisions taken by the LSCB. Throughout the year, the Independent Chair sought to ensure the effectiveness of arrangements where members represented more that one service and making clear their responsibilities for ensuring robust representation for all services.

A list of members of the LSCB is set out in Appendix B.

The role of the Board's 'Lay Member' continued to evolve during the year and became an important addition to the Board's Learning and Improvement sub group function. The Lay Member oversaw the development of the Board's new Communications and Community Engagement Sub Group and was successful in attracting funding external from S C Johnson Ltd to support the LSCB in its awareness raising activities. During the year the Board's Lay Member also linked with those performing similar roles across the region and is helping recruit a replacement for the Board's 2<sup>nd</sup> Lay Member vacancy. In addition the Lay Member now produces an Annual Report for the LSCB.

## 1.4 How did the LSCB operate?

Throughout the period of this report the LSCB met every 2 months and was responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the statutory functions required of the LSCBs set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMGov, 2015).
- Monitoring progress against the [Business Plan](#).
- Scrutinising and challenging partners and sub group activity.
- Monitoring Serious Case Review and Individual Management Review action plans.
- Receiving and commenting on partner's annual reports on key areas of safeguarding activity.
- Developing the use of shared resources across partner agencies to enable the LSCB to carry out its duties and processes efficiently.
- Agreeing and managing [the LSCB and Partnership Forum](#) agenda.

### 1.4.1 Partnership Forum

During 2015/16 the LSCB's Partnership Forum met on three occasions and enabled an extended group of partners to collectively consider:

- The views of children/young people in relation to safeguarding issues and the services provided to them and their families.
- Developments within the work of organisations that impacted on their ability to effectively safeguarding children/young people.
- Strategic planning and the role their organisations could play in improving outcomes for children/young people.
- Changes in legislation / policy, emerging best practice and messages from research / inspection findings.
- The effective communication of safeguarding 'messages' within their own agency and across multi-agency settings.



In addition to the above, members of the forum participated in a rolling programme of workshops and inputs designed to extend their knowledge and understanding of specific issues which included:

- Safeguarding Children with Disabilities.
- Development of Early Help Services work to engage of local families in raising awareness to prevent neglect.
- Key messages in respect of missing children and CSE.
- The Care Act 2014 and its implications for children/young people.
- Private Fostering and the importance of vigilance and reporting.
- Regional development in preventing/responding to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Learning from the work of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).
- The needs of 'Looked After Children and the views of young people involved in the Borough's Youth Council and local counselling services.
- Social care reforms and the implementation of a Bracknell Forest Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), 'Permanency Planning' and the 'Signs of Safety' approach to working with families.
- Safer recruitment and the management of allegations against staff/volunteers.
- Domestic Abuse and service for children/young people.

Further to the above presentations, the Partnership Forum were also updated on the actions of the LSCB and throughout the year were provided with broader safeguarding information.

### 1.4.2 LSCB Sub Groups – Bracknell Forest and Pan Berkshire

LSCB Sub Groups (see Appendix A) continued to report directly to the LSCB throughout the year. The primary function of these groups was to undertake activities to meet the statutory functions of the LSCB and address agreed priorities identified within its Business Plan.

## Pan Berkshire LSCB Sub Groups

A number of other sub-groups were collectively commissioned by the six LSCBs within Berkshire and were held to account through direct reporting to joint meetings of the Berkshire Independent Chairs and Business Managers and routine reports to the LSCB. During the year all sub-groups reviewed their terms of reference, progress made and highlighted outstanding challenges to the LSCB.

The following sub-groups were commissioned by Bracknell Forest LSCB in conjunction with the five neighbouring Boards of Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead:



### o *Policy and Procedures Sub Group*

This jointly commissioned sub-group manages the online Pan Berkshire safeguarding policies and procedures content, hosted on a system developed by Signis (formerly TriX) which is available at [www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/](http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/).

Following the direction of the Independent Chairs Group in the summer of 2015, a significant review of the online procedures took place which involved a:

- Review of existing material that resulted in the updating and reduction of content.
- Review of the membership of the sub group, leading to increased frequency of meetings and new chairing arrangements being put in place.
- Strengthening of Social Care representation to ensure compatibility with Local Authority guidance.
- Routine in depth review of the procedures to ensure their accuracy.

## Outcomes:

Commissioning arrangements for the Board's online guidance were renegotiated by members of the Policy and Procedures Sub Group to ensure '24/7' access to up to date information in respect of child protection for all practitioners in Bracknell Forest.

### o *Child Sexual Exploitation Leads Sub Group*

During the period covered by this report, the Board lobbied for improved regional arrangements to support the sharing of best practice in respect of CSE and the exchange of learning acquired through case reviews, research and inspection. As a result this sub group is now hosted by Bracknell Forest LSCB in partnership with neighbouring Boards and jointly chaired with Thames Valley Police. The sub group will meet on three occasions each year and will provide an opportunity for peer review and external challenge through its links with the [National Working Group](#). Although the work of the group is still developing progress has been made in identifying areas for improvement and resulted in better co-ordination of information to support problem profiling, and raising awareness activities such as that in support of the National Awareness Day.



- *Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)*

Details of the work of the panel are central to the work of the Board's Learning and Improvement Sub group and are therefore set out within section 2 of this report.

- *Section 11 (Safeguarding Standards) Sub Group*

The work of this Sub Group forms an intrinsic part of Board's learning and improvement function and are therefore set out within section 2 of this report.

## Bracknell Forest LSCB Sub Groups

During the 2015/16 the work of the LSCB was supported by the work of the following local sub-groups:

- *Learning and Improvement Sub Group*

The work of this sub-group is central to many of the main scrutiny functions of the LSCB and extensive details of its work are set out below in section 2 of this report.

- *Training and Professional Development Sub Group*

This sub group was only commissioned in January 2016 and took over the existing functions of the East Berkshire Training and Development Sub Group. The work of the new sub-groups is closely aligned to that of the LISG and is set out in section 2 below.

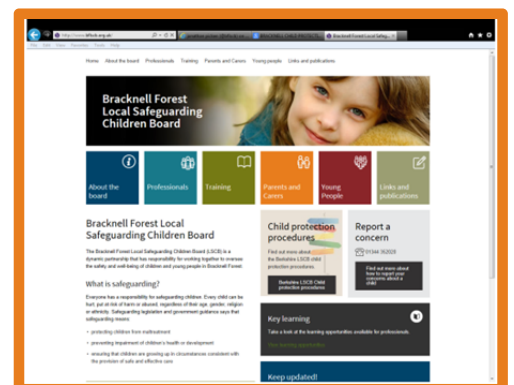
- *Missing Children and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)*

This sub group has led the work against a key LSCB priority and is set out in section 4.

- *Communications and Community Engagement Sub Group*

Following a review of the LSCB functions members of the Board identified the need for greater co-ordination of partners work to support the communication of the priorities identified in the Board's Business Plan and key safeguarding messages and to improve opportunities for consultation/engagement with children and young people and the voluntary and community sector. As a result this sub-group was commissioned in March 2016 and has been developing its work to ensure partners:

- Effectively communicate the need to safeguard & promoting the welfare of children and raise awareness of how this can be done
- Progress existing efforts to engage members of the local community and co-ordinate an annual plan of targeted engagement
- Awareness of agency's responses to high profile media issues
- Assist the LSCB to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of communication and engagement within the Borough



Increasingly social media has become an important element of the Boards communications and provides an opportunity for wider safeguarding messages to be shared across a diverse range of groups and individuals. Its use also enables the LSCB to promote access to its website which was updated to improve access to important information and links to the inter-agency guidance referred to above.

The sub-group swiftly commenced its work and supporting a national campaign to prevent sexual violence and to disseminate finding of sexual abuse research published by the Office of the Children’s Commissioner. This event was hosted in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership, Thames Valley Police, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and third sector partners Refuge.



During the year the sub group also supported a local cultural event promoting community cohesion. Such events provided an opportunity for the LSCB to engage with local community groups and to raise awareness in respect of safeguarding children, including the importance of preventing hate crime and extremism. The sub group also oversees engagement with children and young people and supported partners existing activities by hosting a consultation event with

members of the local Youth Council. A series of regular consultations is also planned and will include pupils of local School Councils and members of Parish Councils operating within the Borough.

o *FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Task and Finish Group*

The FGM Task and Finish Group was set up in Bracknell Forest in March 2016 with an aim to raise awareness of FGM and followed on from the East Berks Task and Finish Group who had developed the FGM pathways. In addition the group focussed on the prevention of FGM and improvements to how services and professionals respond to women and girls who have suffered, or are at risk of suffering FGM. The group produced a strategy and action plan to ensure that staff in the relevant agencies gain the skills and confidence needed to protect women and girls through raising a concern when needed and providing advocacy and support for the most vulnerable young people in Bracknell Forest.

Bracknell Forest does not have a significant issue with FGM (Public health estimate the numbers to be 2 children with FGM in BF ages 0-15 and 81 women and girls ages 15 years and over). However it is such a damaging health issue for women and girls that it is important to ensure a high level of vigilance is maintained.

## Outcomes:

Revision of the Board’s sub groups during the year sought to ensure a strong focus on the quality and effectiveness of local arrangements, while continuing to embrace the need for collaboration across the region.

During 2015/16 the work of the LSCB was been supported by a:

- Business Manager (32 hours a week)
- Partnership, Performance and Project Officer (29 hours a week)

Significant support was also provided by the Head of Performance Management and Governance and the Council's Democratic Services in support of meetings and minute taking.

## 1.5 Regional Collaboration across Thames Valley

Despite the continued pressures previously highlighted in relation to changes within agencies operating across the Thames Valley, the LSCB continued to work collaboratively beyond the Borough in order to address the risks to children and young people. Oversight of this work was maintained through joint meetings of the Independent Chairs and Business Managers Forum. This group engaged with representatives of organisations whose work covers a number of LSCB jurisdictions and sought to reduce the burden associated with their attendance at so many Board meetings.

Existing regional collaborations such as the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), and the Sexual Advice Referral Centre (SARC) continued to work effectively during the year and ensured that key statutory requirements of the LSCBs were fulfilled. These functions are in addition to the jointly commissioned sub groups referred to previously:

- Policies and Procedures
- S11 Safeguarding Standards
- CSE Leads Forum.



## 2. Learning and Improvement Framework

During 2015/16 the LSCB sought to further develop and embed its Learning and Improvement Framework. This work was overseen by the Board's Learning and Improvement Sub Group (LISG) who in accordance with the recently established requirements contained within Working Together (HMGov 2015) co-ordinated work in the following areas.

### 2.1 Analysis of data and information in respect of core safeguarding requirements

Throughout 2015/16 the LISG continued to develop its core data set (see 4.1.2) which provides both statistical and narrative information in relation to core areas of safeguarding activities reported to members of the LSCB. In recognition of the importance of such data the sub group developed its agenda to allow increased scrutiny of emerging themes. This resulted in a number of challenges in respect to:

- Recognition of neglect within early help processes
- The vulnerability of children/young people effected by increased homelessness
- Service provision for children/young people effected by Domestic Abuse
- Professional development and reporting in relation to single agency training activities
- Processes to determine the safety of children/young people missing from education
- Processes to ensure effective provision of 'return interviews' for missing children
- The increased use of fixed term exclusions by local primary schools.
- The processes required to ensure robust safeguarding responses in respect of older children/young people



The LSCB continued to increase the range of data it gathers and challenged partners to ensure delays in receiving information were kept to a minimum.

### 2.2 Regular reports on core safeguarding arrangements

The LSCB also received six monthly reports from:

- Manager of the Child Protection Conference Chairs
- Manager of the Independent Reviewing Officers
- The Local Authority Designated Officer
- The Principal Social Worker
- Annual Complaints report from Children's Social Care

All of these reports provide scrutiny and analysis of key core components and the effectiveness of the safeguarding system –both single agency and multi-agency and key challenges/recommendations for improvements. These reports provided evidence as to how well agencies engaged and were working together within the child protection process.

## 2.3 'Section 11' - scrutiny of local agencies and commissioned services



During 2015/16, the LSCB strengthened its work to provide oversight of partner's S.11 'self audits' and established a scrutiny panel that routinely received a random sample of self audits relating to Schools, Early Years and services commissioned by Children's Services. An electronic tool was refined to assist organisations undertaking such audits and enabled more efficient reporting into the sub group.

Knowledge gleaned as a result of this work enabled the LSCB to identify good practice from which others could learn, any deficiencies were challenged and guidance/support provided. The engagement of schools and Early Years I this process continues to be excellent. The recommended tools previously offered to local voluntary, community and faith groups by the 'SafeNetwork' were withdrawn by the company during the year and resulted in Involve (formerly BFVA) commencing a consultation as to the benefits of extending the LSCB processes and/or, promoting alternatives such as that offered by the NSPCC.

### Outcomes:

Through the work of the Section 11 panel, the LSCB promoted the continuous efforts required to ensure safeguarding standards were maintained within organisations. During the year a number of agencies were challenged to ensure they embraced safer recruitment practices and managers had received appropriate training. Additionally GPs were engaged in developing an assessment tool that would provide assurance on their safeguarding arrangements as it is recognised that they perform a key role in safeguarding children but are not required to undertake this process.

## 2.4 'Section 11' scrutiny of larger organisations who operate across Berkshire

During the period of this report Bracknell Forest LSCB hosted the Pan Berkshire S.11 Panel and identified the need for better co-ordination of this process. As a result, a programme of improvements was put in place by the Sub Group and the Independent Chair regularly reported progress made to the Board.

As part of the changes made:

- A revised tool was developed to assist organisations to identify their strengths and areas in which improvements were required

- This work is now driven through a process requiring completed audits to be submitted for independent peer review by the sub group
- These audits are presented by the lead officer to the panel who provide challenge, advice, and enables examples of best practice to be promoted to increase the learning

In addition, the panel established a process to ensure future audits of Primary Care and GP functions are linked to this process and that Local Authorities will also submit S.11 self assessments in 2016/17. Feedback from those organisations who participated in the process demonstrated important learning for them and identified actions to support their development.

## Outcomes:

Following analysis of its work, the panel also identified learning suggesting a correlation between higher performing organisations and the degree to which:

- leaders ensured safeguarding was a priority across organisations, e.g. internal safeguarding committees linking strategic/LSCB activities with the management of front line services.
- dedicated resources supported the development, implementation and evaluation of learning / professional development.
- cultures were created and maintained by ‘champions’ who were passionate about safeguarding children/young people.

## 2.5 Child Protection Incident Review (CPIR) Notifications

During 2015/16 the LISG sub group received a number of notifications from partner agencies where concerns had been identified in relation to the responses of professionals and the potential for learning to be identified that would improve practice. Notifications of incidents are viewed positively by the LSCB to encourage transparency and ensure learning identified and actions taken to ensure improvements are made.

In each case, once a decision was made by the LSCB Chair that the SCR criteria were not met, an inter-agency audit of partners involvement was undertaken to help identify learning and inform actions to improve practice and/or systems. Actions identified for agencies were subsequently monitored by the sub group to ensure effective measures had been taken.

In 2015/16 there were three cases scrutinised through this process where further work was undertaken by single agencies and the outcomes and assurance provided to the LISG. One related to the sexual abuse of children, one related to injury to a baby and one related to the management arrangements of an adult sex offender.

## 2.6 Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

Although no SCRs were commissioned during the period of this report, the sub group did refer a case to a neighbouring LSCB following a serious physical assault to a child that occurred within the Borough in which the perpetrator (another young person) was living

within their jurisdiction. Consultation with the National Panel of Experts determined that this case did not meet the criteria for an SCR. However a partnership review was commissioned by that LSCB and learning from this was subsequently shared with partner agencies in Bracknell Forest.

## Outcomes:

The LSCB regularly considered the findings from SCRs undertaken by other LSCBs and any local learning from CPIRs or audit activity and disseminated the learning from these through its core training events and targeted workshops.

### 2.6.1 Serious Case Review-Child C

Following the conclusion of a lengthy criminal re-trial, the SCR commissioned by the LSCB in respect of Child C was finally published in February 2016. As previously reported, the learning from this review helped identify actions designed to improve a number of areas of practice and was published on the Board's website:

[www.bflscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/serious-case-review-child-c.pdf](http://www.bflscb.org.uk/sites/default/files/serious-case-review-child-c.pdf).

The LISG has continued to robustly monitor these actions to ensure the changes put in place led to lasting improvements. It also intends to undertake a review in 2016 of the impact of these changes /improvements on children with detailed case studies.

## 2.7 Learning from partner agency audit and inspection

During the year the LISG worked with partners to ensure their single agency audit activities were objective and sufficiently self critical. The subgroup worked hard to improve the reporting of audit activities and to establish the routine sharing of findings from service reviews and inspections. Where the LISG were unable to obtain information requested, this was escalated and the LSCB alerted through entries to its Challenge/Risk Register. As a result the sub group has gone on to developed a stronger culture of sharing critical information as well as celebrating the good practice identified.

Improvements resulting from learning from audit and inspection findings which have been reported into the LISG included:

- MAPPA audit of sex offender management identified actions to reduce the risk of offending linked to the provision of inappropriate accommodation.
- Audit of Health Visitor practice leading to improved policies to support better quality of information recorded in relation to Child Protection Plans.
- Thames Valley Police improved training provision in respect of Honour Based Violence, Domestic Abuse and generic Child Protection following the recommendations of an external inspection.
- Royal Berkshire Hospital audit of their protocol in relation to Bruising in Children who are 'Non Independently Mobile' highlighted the challenges in its implementation and specific actions to improve compliance with the guidance.

- Frimley Park Hospital audit of case planning highlighted good practice, but also the need for increased resources for specialist nursing that were subsequently secured.
- Bracknell Forest Council undertook a number of routine auditing activities that regularly fed into the LISG and focused on a range of their services from Early Help through to the its core assessment; children in need; child protection; disabled children and looked after children services.
- A Peer Review 'Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic' commissioned from the Local Government Association to consider the effectiveness of Children's Social care "front door" noted the progress made since a similar review undertaken in 2013. The review identified good practice and also areas for improvement that would stretch performance and ambition further. Resulting recommendations have further informed service development and led to an overarching strategy to promote 'Permanency Planning' as a concept to drive sustainable long term outcomes for children/young people.

## 2.8 Learning from multi-agency audit and review activity

The following multi-agency LSCB audits were undertaken by the subgroup during the period of this report and resulted in important learning that in turn drove actions to improve practice:

### 2.8.1 Early Help

An audit relating to early help and the decision making supporting 'step up' and 'step down' arrangements to meet the needs of children and young people demonstrated the effectiveness of interventions and that cases were 'stepped down' appropriately. While services had been observed to focus on the child and the quality of recording had been good, the audit also demonstrated:



- The importance of avoiding delays where significant concerns exist and that these are escalated promptly.
- A focus must be maintained in respect of the wider family environment and the importance of exploring the role of fathers/significant male carers.
- That concerns must be escalated if staff have difficulties in accessing specialist help and/or thresholds for specific service provision cannot be agreed.
- The importance of very early help and strategies address the challenges of delivering services to families who move frequently.

### 2.8.2 Missing Children and CSE

A sample of cases in which children had gone missing and/or were considered to be a risk of CSE were audited by an inter-agency panel and built on work undertaken in the previous year, and the process was further informed by consultation with frontline staff. This process highlighted good practice and emphasised the importance of:

- Early help and timely independent return interviews that avoid drift in cases pending specialist assessments.
- Accessing/sharing information and the need for thorough assessments in respect to long standing complex issues.

- Plans that secure long term stability and avoid disruption to important services, such as education.
- Disrupting CSE and need to strengthen the focus of all partners on the alleged perpetrator and steps needed to deter them.
- Escalating cases to ensure inter-agency co-ordination of assessment/investigation.

### 2.8.3 Problem Profiling of CSE

While local audits and consultation with frontline staff informed partners understanding of the challenges related to CSE, work undertaken by Thames Valley Police helped provide a broader context and demonstrated the benefits of knowledge gleaned from across the region.

Limited responses from local voluntary/community groups highlighted the need for more work to be undertaken to secure their engagement and ensure understanding of CSE. This in turn led to a review of the Board's co-ordination of communication and community engagement.

#### Outcomes:

Work undertaken by Thames Valley Police helped profile CSE and provided staff with a broader understanding of such abuse and demonstrated the benefits of sharing knowledge gleaned across the region which directed impacts on the risk assessments undertaken on individual children.

The work of the Youth Council in facilitating consultations with local pupils (previously reported but disseminated in 2015/16) continued to inform the work of the LSCB and their key messages set out below emphasised the importance of:

- Continued education relating to consent.
- More open discussions in respect of relationships at an earlier stage in their education.
- The importance of safe areas for young people within the Borough supported by regular policing and an greater understanding of potential problem posed by children/young people travelling to higher risk areas.

In contrast, to the engagement of this wider group of children/young people, the Board had limited success in securing the views of those directly affected by such exploitation and identified this work as a priority to be addressed.

### 2.8.4 Children/Young People subject to Child Protection Plans due to neglect

Although this audit commenced during the previous year, its analysis and the dissemination of learning largely occurred during the period covered by this report. The audit identified good practice in respect of the identification, referrals and quality of plans and therapeutic support, but also highlighted the:

- Importance of identifying/commissioning services to address parenting and 'permanency' planning to ensure 'step down' arrangements follow the ending of child protection plans.

- Necessity for adequate core groups support in order to ensure robust approaches to address entrenched problems, parental resistance and ensure actions are addressed timely way.
- Clarity necessary within Child Protection Plan and Core Group minutes to ensure good communication that helps inform management oversight, monitoring of progress and staff supervision.

Learning from this audit also informed improvements in the routine data collated in respect of child protection conferences enabling more effective monitoring of this important function.

A further audit in respect of Child Protection Plans was undertaken by the Councils' Performance and Governance Team in the latter period covered by this report and its findings will further inform the monitoring of planned improvements.

### **2.8.5 Supervision Survey**

Following work undertaken in relation to learning from the 'Child C' SCR, the LSCB commissioned an inter-disciplinary survey of practitioners experiences. Findings from this work highlighted the importance of management oversight that promoted reflection, challenge and staff support. The survey indicated that 78% of respondents were happy with their supervision, but that for some workload pressures prevented supervision occurring, or having time to include reflection on cases. A number of respondents indicated their interest in being able to participate in inter-agency supervision which is now an initiative promoted by staff in Children's Social Care. As a result of the learning from the survey the LSCB agreed to commission multi-agency safeguarding standards which it plans to publish in the autumn of 2016.

Learning available from regional/ national research and inspection findings further informed the work of the subgroup and was shared more widely via social media and the Board's website.

### **2.8.6 Audit of Joint Working arrangements**

During 2015/16 Thames Valley Police and Children's Social Care undertook joint audits that demonstrated improvements in arrangements that helped strengthen the role of Strategy Meetings within the inter-agency arrangements across the Borough.

Similar audits were also undertaken jointly between Children's Social Care, mental health and substance misuse services. Findings from these audits highlighted the negative impact of staff turnover and the importance of wider community support to help sustain long term recovery.

### **2.8.7 Learning from the work of the Child Death Overview Panel**

The LSCB is responsible for ensuring a review is undertaken in respect of the death of a child, normally resident in its area. As previously stated, the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is jointly commissioned to undertake the statutory requirements set out in Working Together (HMGov, 2015).

Although there was an increase in child deaths across the Borough during the period of the report 2015/16 (4 deaths recorded), the number of deaths in 2014/15 (2 deaths recorded) was unusually low and the current rate still remains lower than those recorded for 2013/14. The vulnerabilities associated with two of the neonatal deaths during the year were linked to the prematurity of the children's births, and known life limiting conditions were associated with the death of two other children during the year.

Despite the rise in such tragic losses, Bracknell Forest continues to have the lowest number of deaths in comparison to other LSCB areas within Berkshire which in total amounted to 45 during the year.

As part of its function CDOP collects regional data on the following risk factors; maternal obesity, maternal smoking, co-sleeping, smoking parent/carer, domestic abuse, IVF, alcohol, late antenatal bookings and consanguinity of parents. During the year the work of the panel was also informed by lessons from other parts of the UK, academic research and localised analysis such as a themed review of neonatal deaths. This group of very young infants account for the majority of deaths across the region and following a review of the CDOP structure and function, an operational group of experts now undertakes detailed investigations as to the causes of neonatal deaths each year, and subsequently report their findings to the panel.

The Panel also identified the need for clearer procedures in relation to concealed pregnancy. Inter-agency guidance informed by this learning is now available for all practitioners and is now linked to the CDOP Rapid Response protocol.

During 2015/16 learning from CDOP also informed prevention of deaths through ongoing health promotion activities across the region and saw particular efforts to raise awareness in relation to:

- Water safety
- Rubella case
- The management of asthma
- The importance of recognising symptoms associated with raised intracranial pressure
- Early screening for paediatric sepsis
- The increased risk of suicide associated with online exploitation
- Learning from research relating to Deaths from Self-Asphyxial Behaviours (choking games).

Further details of the work undertaken by the CDOP can be found at:  
[www.bhps.org.uk/cdop/home.html](http://www.bhps.org.uk/cdop/home.html)

## 2.8.8 Multi-Agency Training and Workforce Development

During the period of this report the LSCB evaluated its provision of multi-agency training and considered the options available, given the limited resources available. The Board subsequently commissioned a new Training and Professional Development Sub Group to oversee a revised strategy, the introduction of a new charging policy and mechanisms for identifying future training needs of the workforce operating within the Borough.



It is intended that these changes will enable the Board to focus its limited resources most effectively and deliver targeted inter-agency training that complements that provided on a single agency basis. During the coming year the Board will further explore the merits of learning opportunities beyond those associated with traditional group based learning and seek to improve the evaluation of its efforts to support effective practice.



During 2015/16:

- A total of 625 delegates attended training during 2015-16.
- 88% of the total available training places were filled during this period.
- The majority of training places were filled by practitioners working for Bracknell Forest Council (36%), schools (22%) and Early Years organisations such as nurseries (18%). In turn, this analysis helped inform the Boards challenge to other professional groups regarding their low level of attendance.



- 251 delegates attended the multi-agency universal training course 'Introduction to Safeguarding Children and Young People'.
- 259 delegates attended multi-agency 'targeted' level training. This includes the courses 'Safeguarding-A Shared Responsibility', 'Child Sexual Exploitation' and 'E-Safety'.
- 111 delegates attended specialist level training, including 'S47 Investigations', and 'Child Sexual Exploitation'.

In addition to its core training offer, the Board hosted learning and improvement workshops to help disseminate key findings from its work, also drawing on key messages from research/inspection findings. Members of the LSCB also supported a number of events held by partner organisations in order to further disseminate learning.



## Outcomes:

During 2015/16 the LSCB promoted national campaigns such as the '#helpinghands' (CSE awareness) and "#itsnotok" (sexual violence awareness)

Keen to maximise the impact of impact of training, the LSCB were pleased to receive reports as to the experience of staff attending the above events and that course evaluation demonstrated:

- 95% of delegates attending universal training and 97% attending multi-agency targeted training agreed that they felt more confident in their knowledge of safeguarding matters after course attendance
- 87% of delegates attending universal training and 90% attending multi-agency targeted training rated their satisfaction with the training as '9 out of 10'



However, the Board acknowledged the need for partners to understand the impact of such learning on the effectiveness of practice in the longer term. As a result, a number of approaches were considered, with 2 methods subsequently piloted. Initially, a telephone survey was undertaken during the summer of

2015 which concluded that 87.5% of those who participated agreed that participation in training had changed their working practice and offered positive feedback such as:

*“I became more alert in observing my younger clients’ physical appearance and their demeanour that could indicate potential abuse”*

*“becoming aware of local processes was useful in a particular case of one client’s past abuse”*

*“this was a refresher session for me and brought me up to date with current legislation”*

*“it has highlighted safeguarding issues”*

This approach proved to be more time consuming than alternative methods and produced a low response rate. As a result an electronic impact evaluation was devised, piloted and will be implemented for all LSCB safeguarding courses held in Bracknell from April 2016.

### **Outcomes:**

87% of delegates attending universal training and 90% attending multi-agency targeted training rated their satisfaction with the training as ‘9 out of 10’.

## 3. Engagement

### 3.1 LSCB Consultation and Engagement with Children and Young People

The LSCB continues to encourage partner agencies to ensure children/young people are consulted and/or involved in any area of their work that might impact on their lives and the outcomes of these consultations are fed back to the LSCB. The Board is aware of the ongoing work within local services to engage children/young people.

The LSCB Forum has routinely ensured there is a standing agenda item to allow the voice/feedback from children and young people and their messages for the Board and partner organisations.

In 2015/16 there were workshop sessions on Young Carers, the Children in Care Council (SILSIP) and receipt of their key messages on:



- bullying
- the impact of meetings in school hours
- additional support groups /mechanisms needed for care leavers.

Following on from their work highlighting the risks of CSE, members of the local Youth Council were consulted as part of the LSCB's production of its current Safeguarding Plan 2016 - 2019.

As a result of this exercise the Board recognised the importance of this becoming a routine feature of LSCB future planning. The LSCB are committed to plans to repeat this consultation each year. The LSCB has also agreed that consultation work will be enhanced and supplemented by routine engagement with Schools Councils and is to be a key feature of the work planned by its new Communication and Community Engagement Sub Group in 16/17.

#### Bullying

Bullying continues to be an issue identified through consultation with children and young people that effects many children, is associated with a range safeguarding issues, including those relating hate crime and discrimination and therefore taken extremely seriously by members of the Board.

During 2015/16 work undertaken by Bracknell Forest Council's Anti-Bullying Coordinator engaged over 400 children and young people across 20 schools and supported their existing efforts to tackling bullying.

A particular emphasis was placed on the misuse of technologies and led to this theme becoming the focus of the Annual Anti Bullying competition that encouraged children/young people's creativity to tackle bullying through the production of multimedia resources. The event attracted a large number of high quality videos from pupils promoting a range of key safeguarding messages.

The importance of consulting those receiving specialist safeguarding services continues to be highlighted by the LSCB and the Board was assured that arrangements for children/young people subject to Child Protection Plans and those looked after by the local authority had continued to improve. Their feedback is routinely reported to the LSCB and is a feature of the LSCB multi-agency learning and audit activity.

## Looked After Children



The Children in Care Council (called SiLSiP, Say it Loud Say it Proud in Bracknell Forest) continued to play an active role in planning and developing services and helped raise awareness of the needs of looked after children amongst professionals.

During 2015 the first 'Big Ballot' event for Looked After Children took place. This involved SiLSiP re-launching the 'The Pledge', which committed their

'corporate parents' to recognising the specific needs of looked after children and upholding their rights to high quality care.

The Big Ballot also offered an opportunity for Looked After young people to vote on those issues where they would like to see changes and improvement. As a result of that ballot SiLSiP have been working on the issue 'bullying', which was identified as the most significant problem by those involved. In response SiLSiP made a short animation film which is available as a resource to help support carers and other professionals.

In the 2016 repeat 'Big Ballot', the issue of 'Contact' was identified as a concern by most of the children/young people participating and is now the focus of the work being currently being undertaken by SiLSiP.

As in previous years SiLSiP continue to offer the "Do you Know?" training to foster carers and other professionals working with looked after children and were pleased to be able to extend this to Designated teachers in order to also give them insight into the experiences of looked after children.

During the period of this report, they also addressed the following issues in which they wanted to see change:

- Social workers changing or leaving without a proper goodbye.
- The awkwardness of getting to know new carers or workers.
- How to share your likes and dislikes with new carers without feeling uncomfortable or rude.
- Having their health assessments in school and/or coming out of important lessons for them.

SiLSiP lobbied Managers on the above issues and supported change through initiatives such as the production of:

- 'Goodbye cards' to help when social workers left the authority

- “About me” sheets to help new carers/staff get to know children/young people
- A regular newsletters to promoted access to the advocacy services and an online support services

Throughout 2015/16 issues for looked after children were promoted across the council and partner agencies and during the period the Borough also hosted its first looked after children’s art exhibition.

### 3.2 Involvement with frontline practitioners

Frontline practitioners have been involved with surveys and consultations such as safeguarding supervision undertaken by the LSCB.

They have also been directly involved in the methodology of the LSCB multi-agency case reviews with facilitated discussion on their perceptions of what worked well and what needs improvement.

Workshops led by the LSCB on learning from audits/case reviews are interactive opportunities for the LSCB to hear directly from frontline practitioners and managers.

### 3.3 Voluntary and Community Sector and Community Engagement

As previous sections of this report have highlighted links with voluntary, community and faith groups are vital to ensure safeguarding continues to be a shared responsibility.

Involve (formerly Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action) provides a crucial link between the LSCB and local voluntary, community and faith groups. During the year Involve supported the LSCB, the work of its sub groups and was instrumental in promoting training events and the broader work of the Board. In addition Involve facilitated a number of specific initiatives that promoted safeguarding activities including:

- Projects to tackle youth unemployment
- Recruitment of local residents to support a council led parenting initiative
- Recruitment of foster carers
- Community Cohesion activities to prevent hate crime and radicalisation
- Consultations in support of CSE prevention
- Safeguarding training and consultations in support of local groups

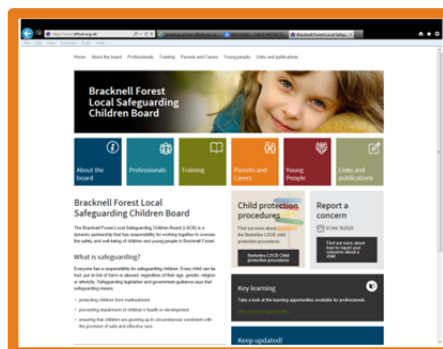
Involve now host the LSCB’s recently established Communication and Community Engagement Sub Group (see Section 3) and work increasingly closely with the Board to improve links between their members and other volunteers/groups operating within the Borough.

It is intended in 2016/17 to undertake some piloting of a proportionate S.11 process for Voluntary, Community and Faith groups within the Borough to strengthen the safeguarding arrangements.

Further details of the work undertaken by Involve can be found at [www.involve.community](http://www.involve.community)

## 4. LSCB Business Plan and Priorities

The work of the LSCB is guided by its Safeguarding Business Plan which helps coordinate local services to address their core safeguarding responsibilities and focus particular efforts to tackle agreed local priorities. Details of the plan are disseminated widely through the LSCB, Chairs of sub groups and made available via the LSCB website - [www.bflscb.org.uk/about-board](http://www.bflscb.org.uk/about-board)



During 2015/16, details and progress of the LSCB Business Plan were regularly reviewed by the Chair and members of the Board to ensure it was informed by the work of its Learning and Improvement Sub Group and the regular and routine reports to the Board.

### 4.1 LSCB Targeted Priorities –progress in 2015/16

In early 2015/16, the LSCB revised its Business Plan to ensure effective oversight of the work of partner agencies against the LSCB core priorities and agreed a number of targeted priorities. Review of progress was achieved by regular reports to the LSCB on the following priority areas which identified progress and ongoing challenges as well as scrutiny of performance data and single agency and multi-agency auditing activity. In order to address the challenges associated with those areas identified as Targeted Priorities by the LSCB, its Business Plan relies heavily on the efforts of other agencies whose work is co-ordinated through other local strategic forum such as the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

During 2015/16 the Board received reports on a wide range of work undertaken through the above arrangements and this is evidenced within the minutes of the Board and Partnership Forum available at [www.bflscb.org.uk/about-board](http://www.bflscb.org.uk/about-board).

The particular adverse impact of substance misuse, domestic abuse and parental mental ill-health on children/young people is clearly evidenced in national research findings and also remains an ongoing challenge within the Borough.

#### Targeted Priority 1

**Support further implementation of the framework for early help, and evaluate its impact on families**

##### Early Help

The Board received detailed annual reports on the work of the Early Intervention Hub and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and oversight was exercised by the Early Help sub group with 6 monthly updates to the Board to ensure arrangements were robust.

All reports and evidence demonstrated that the Early Help arrangements were effective and well understood by partner agencies with an increase annually in the number of CAFs undertaken and in their quality. 'Creating Opportunities- Positive Futures', the Early Help strategy 2015-17 (<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/positive-futures-strategy-2015-to-2017.pdf>) was updated and in November 2015 the Board agreed that the sub group should cease as Early Help arrangements were fully embedded in core activity.

During the period covered by this report the Board were reassured by the work of the Early Help Group to progress the following areas of work:

- Maintaining an oversight of the effectiveness of early help and supported some key areas of development for early help, such as the Really Useful guide to Neglect, CAF and Early Intervention Hub.
- Embedding of core systems the effective use of CAF and the Early Intervention Hub in supporting more complex cases and a clear step down process from Tier 3 to Tier 2.
- Revision of the Early Help Strategy 2015 to 2017 which supports the ongoing priorities of both the children and Young People's Partnership and the LSCB.
- Integrating early help work within the LSCB Learning and Improvement Group which strengthens oversight and audit.
- Regular reporting to the LSCB on CAF and Early Intervention Hub activities.
- Proposals to support the use of task and finish groups as an alternative to maintaining the current subgroup arrangement.

The LSCB acknowledged the work of the sub group and accepted its recommendations that saw the integration of early help within the other existing mechanisms that ensued reporting from partner agencies.

*The revised strategy was designed to provide a framework to enable partner organisations to further develop early help support for children/young people and their families living within the Borough. The stated aims of the strategy are:*

- To improve outcomes and life chances for children, young people and families placing the well-being of the child / young person at the centre of all that we do.
- Increase access to timely, targeted and appropriate services.
- Manage highly predictable risk better (e.g. parents who have been in care themselves and parents who have previously had children removed.)
- Refocus resources and expenditure from crisis intervention to early help, investing in proportion to need.
- Provide a focus on the whole family and the role of the family in the planning and delivery of early help.
- Ensure interventions have a strong evidence base and any services commissioned are able to evaluate and demonstrate impact and outcomes.
- Further develop multi-agency and integrated working, including using and sharing data and information more effectively.
- Strengthen the role of universal services provision in early help.
- Communicate the early help offer and how it can be accessed
- Develop skills and management support/supervision for early help workers
- Develop specific training for early help workers e.g. on the threshold document, identification and intervention re: neglect, solutions focussed intervention etc.

This strategy sits under the initiative 'Bracknell Forest's Approach to Prevention and Early Intervention' ([www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknell-forest-approach-to-prevention-and-early-intervention.pdf](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknell-forest-approach-to-prevention-and-early-intervention.pdf)), which is designed to demonstrate the commitment of the Council to ensuring prevention and early intervention are central to planning and to ensuring the best possible outcomes for people living in the borough.

The successful delivery of early help to children, young people and families in Bracknell Forest is reliant on the strength of partnership working, leadership and management commitment, and having a clear, robust and agreed framework from which to work.

The strategy supports the delivery of the priorities in *Creating Opportunities - a joint strategic plan for children and young people in Bracknell Forest 2014-2017*.

Audit activity is frequently undertaken and reported into the Learning and Improvement sub group and in 2015/16 the multi-agency LSCB audit on thresholds had a specific focus on the effectiveness of the step up/step down processes between Early Help and Children's social care. The outcomes of that were positive and are reported in Section 3.

During the period covered by this report Bracknell Forest Council were successful in securing a grant to enable its development of 'The Families in a strong community Project'. This pilot project was funded through an award from the DCLG 'Delivering Differently through Neighbourhoods' programme and will help redesign delivery of services to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. This project plans to establish a programme of community volunteer led very early support and intervention. The pilot is focussed on three Bracknell Town neighbourhoods and will develop a new model of delivery based on creating a group of skilled local residents who will be able to develop user-led, self-help services.

**Targeted Priority 2**

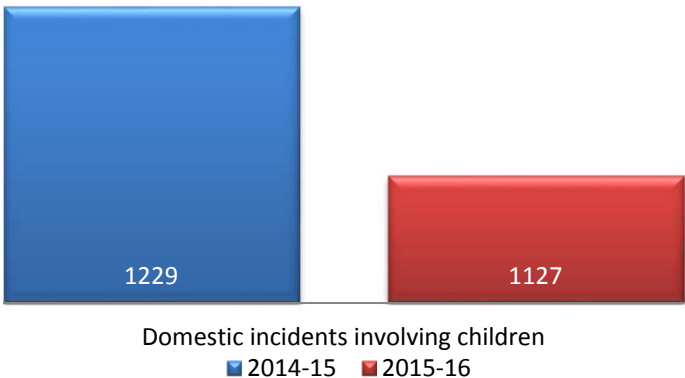
**Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children, young people and families**

**Domestic Abuse (DA)**

2015/16 continued to see the co-ordination of efforts to prevent domestic abuse and further improvements in the collaboration between services to support children/young people affected. This work is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership and the implementation of the Borough's Domestic Abuse Strategy is co-ordinated through the local Domestic Abuse Executive (DAE) and Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF).

During this period there was a 7.6% reduction in reported domestic abuse in Bracknell Forest. This compares to an average increase across the other Berkshire authorities of 18.4% and an average increase across the Thames Valley region of 19.5%. This is reflective of the significant amount of coordinated and sustained work to address domestic abuse within the borough, working with victims, perpetrators and children. The outcome rate for domestic abuse in Bracknell Forest is also above the Thames Valley average and is the highest of all the Berkshire authorities.

The DAE further developed the 'its never ok' website ([www.itsneverok.co.uk](http://www.itsneverok.co.uk)) which provided a wide range of details for those experiencing domestic abuse and complements the information available from Bracknell Forest Council ([www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/domesticabuse)) and that contained on the LSCB's website.



The DAE continued to co-ordinated a range of services for victims/survivors of abuse, children/young people and interventions for perpetrators. Locally the Domestic Abuse Service Coordination (DASC) continued provide enhanced support to standard and medium risk cases of domestic abuse and



children/young people affected, along with enhanced management and supervision of offenders. This pilot project is showing positive signs of its impact, but is currently being formally evaluated by Cambridge University and their findings will inform further service development.

An important aspect of the above approach is the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service (DAPS), a local 1-to-1 perpetrator service. Outcomes measures for (DAPS) were changed in April 2015, making 2015/16 a baseline year for the new targets. Within 2015/16 78% of clients with children on Child Protection Plans at the time of referral to DAPS made positive progress ending the need for such plans to continue. 100% of clients referred to DAPS for prevention work with Children in Need made good progress and did not require additional levels of protection such as a Child Protection Plan.

## Outcomes:

78% of parents with children on Child Protection Plans at the time of the referral to DAPS made positive progress ending the need for such plans to continue.

During the period covered by this report the DAE updated its detailed guidance issued to staff across the Borough and produced a summary version in the format of a 'Cue Card'. The guidance issued to staff was further supported by a programme of training to raise awareness of such abuse within a range of contexts including stalking and honour based violence. Particular emphasis was placed training to support the increased use of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), which in turn highlighted the importance of using the 'Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence Risk Identification and Assessment and Management Model' (DASH) to inform professional judgment.

The DAF continued to support professionals from a number of both statutory and voluntary services, who collectively aim to increase awareness and services to those affected by domestic abuse. The forum aims to identify and promote good practice, ensuring that agencies know about each other and provide them with the opportunity to develop the multi-agency strategy to reduce the level of domestic abuse in the borough.

Children's Social Care has also delivered MARAC briefing sessions to raise awareness amongst frontline staff. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of such referrals now being made.

Additional support for children affected by DA was also commenced by the 'Positive Intervention for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse' (PICADA) programme. This group supported 10 children and 8 mothers by providing a therapeutic intervention in relation to the abuse they had experienced.

The Freedom Programme offered to women experiencing DA, continues to be delivered in Children's Centres, with a number of new facilitators trained during 2015/16. One 'Stepping Up Programme' which focuses on healthy relationships was also delivered to boys known to the criminal justice system during 2015/16.

## Targeted Priority 3

**Reduce the impact of substance and alcohol misuse on children, young people and families**

During 2015/16 the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) provided routine updates in respect of their work to safeguard children/young people from the risks posed by their own substance misuse or that of their parent/carer. DAAT continued to run a monthly surgery in Childrens Social in order to improve communication providing social care staff the opportunity to discuss potential referrals. Four of the local social workers also completed placement at New Hope enabling them to develop greater understanding of impact of substance misuse on parenting capacity and the wider family functioning.

In addition, meetings between Managers of these services were held with the aim of providing earlier help and ensuring escalation of cases where there was thought to be a need for protection.

Twelve of the families who were supported by substance misuse services who were subject to safeguarding process saw progress being made due to the child’s needs for protection subsiding.

At the end of 2015/16 there were still twelve adults in treatment who had children subject to safeguarding. Seven were on Child Protection Plans, one had a Child in Need Plan, two had children who were Looked After, one was on a CAF plan from RBWM and one family had one child who was on a Child Protection Plan and one child who was on a CIN plan.

The percentage of people in treatment who live with children/all in treatment in Bracknell Forest is higher than the national average (quarter 3 2015/16).

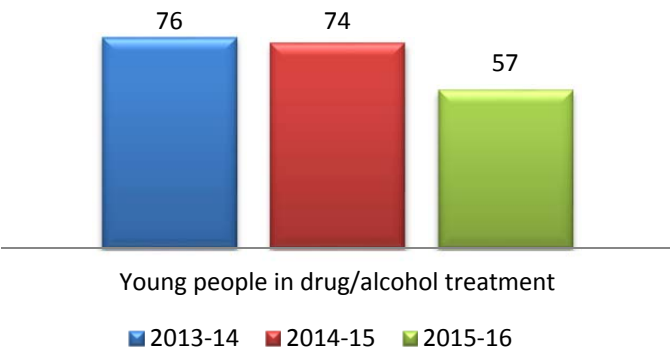
	Latest period %	Number	National Average %
Opiate	46.5%	56/120	29.4%
Non Opiate	43.9%	25/57	24%
Alcohol	41.6%	67/161	25%
Alcohol & non-opiate	40%	20/50	23.3%

In quarter four of 2015/16 of the 230 new treatment journeys 100 were parents who either lived with their own or someone else’s child/children. This equates to 43.4% which is slightly lower than the previous year’s percentage of 44.8%. Engagement with treatment services is recognised nationally as a positive factor in keeping children safe from the impact of substance misuse.

Of the young people entering treatment in quarter 3 of 2015/16 four were looked after, one was a Child in Need and one was on a Child Protection Plan. Three of the young people also reported being affected by others substance misuse. Of the 30 new entrants to treatment only two were referred by Children and Family Services which equates to 6%. In quarter 3 28 young people exited treatment and 17 of these exits were planned.

**Children and Young People**

During 2015/16 the Board received regular reports indicating that for young people receiving treatment services there was a marked reduction in their use of mephedrone which was associated with an overall further reduction in the use of amphetamines. As a result the proportion of young

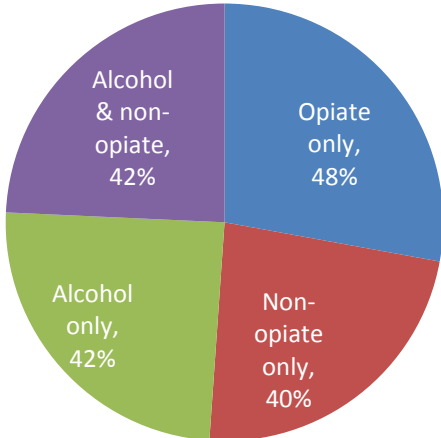


people accessing services due their use of amphetamines fell over a 3 year period from 53% in 2013/14 to 11% in 2014/15. However, this coincided with a rise in the use of both alcohol and cannabis, and an acknowledgement that more work was required to understand the use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – so called legal highs.

**Parental Substance Misuse**

The engagement with local treatment services is seen as a protective factor for children/ young people. During 2015/16 a higher percentage of parents/carers living in the Borough were in treatment than is the case nationally. The Board noted that the completion rates for such programmes involving opiate and alcohol use were also higher than for the wider

% of parents/carers in treatment (of the whole treatment population)



treatment population. However, the percentage of successful completions for non opiate users who are parents/carers is lower that it is for the whole treatment population and highlights the ongoing challenges of safeguarding children/young people living in such circumstances.

During the year LSCB sub groups benefitted from the attendance of substance misuse services staff and highlighted associated risks in respect across all forms of abuse and the links with areas such as CSE. The Board therefore noted with caution the ongoing review of substance misuse services being undertaken and expressed concern as to the potential impact of any reduction in services might have on vulnerable children/young people.

**Targeted Priority 4**  
**Reduce the impact of parental mental illness on children and young people**

In common with other areas of the country, work undertaken by the LSCB has highlighted the vulnerability of some children/young people whose parents have mental health problems.

During 2015/16 work continued to promote greater liaison between Children’s Social Care, Community Mental Health Services (CMHT) and professionals working in substance misuse services.

CMHT continue to monitor the number of children whose parents receive services and file audits inform learning. At the end of 2015-16 the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) were working with 78 parents in respect of 153 children. 20% of these children were subject to child protection, 17% were children in need and 5% were young carers.

Perinatal cases continue to be prioritised and seen within 5 days and if parent appear unable to cope with children or there is deterioration in their health a joint visit between CMHT and CSC staff is now recommended.

As a result of the development work previously undertaken safeguarding children is now a standing item within staff supervision and a named child protection professional is available to all staff needing safeguarding advice.

## Broadmoor Hospital

Broadmoor Hospital continue to support the work of the LSCB and as in previous years provided an annual report outlining the care provided for their patients and outlining their activities relating to safeguarding children/young people. During the period of this report the West London Mental Health Trust reported that the hospital had made significant progress their in safeguarding performance and had developed meaningful safeguarding performance indicators to assist its oversight of performance.

Increased levels of safeguarding awareness were reported to the Board and were demonstrated in the increased in reporting of safeguarding referrals and alerts. Child visits to their parents on adult wards are well embedded and the hospitals policy was revised to reflect updates in practice, guidance and legislation.

The Trust have identified the need to strengthen feedback mechanisms to support safeguarding performance and will be assisted by their plans to ensure vacant posts are filled.

## Children and Young People's Mental Health

There were 314 children and young people referred to CAMHS Tier 3 in 2015-16 which is an increase (of 22%) on the previous year. This rise in referrals is inline with the national picture.

Long waiting times for treatment have been experienced by children and young people with 63% (238) waiting over 12 weeks for treatment. From 2015/16 the service received additional recurrent funding through the national Parity of Esteem programme to enable recruitment to provide a safe, robust service with acceptable waiting times. This is starting to make a difference as reductions have been seen across all wait bands at the beginning of new financial year (2016/17).

Throughout the year key partner agencies worked together in support of a CAMHS Transformation Plan and details of this work were shared with the LSCB. The Board noted the challenges of addressing the increased complex needs of children and young people being overseen by the East Berkshire Transforming Children's Health Board. The LSCB welcomed the additional investment in support of the proposed improvements and will monitor progress against the priorities set for 2015/16.

## Targeted Priority 5

**Develop a greater understanding of neglect and reduce the impact this has on children, young people and families**

### Neglect

Despite the failure of the Innovation bid to DfE the Board retained its focus on neglect and its impact on children, young people and families. In October 2015 the LSCB Partnership Forum received a detailed presentation on the work undertaken in Children's Centres as part of the LARC (Local Authority Research Consortium) research project on early help and neglect.

Importantly the project had examined the attitudes and understanding of neglect amongst parents who had received support for neglect, parents who had not received support and professionals. Concepts such as poverty and neglect were explored along with levels of knowledge and understanding of the routes to report neglect, how to access help and the barriers that prevented people from expressing their concerns.

The key findings of the research included:

- Families view Children's Centres as being a safe place to report concerns.
- While people found chronic neglect easy to identify they struggled to identify indicators of less harmful forms of neglect.
- National campaigns had led to a skewed image of neglect and it was hard for families to recognise less harmful forms of it.
- People found it difficult to separate poverty and neglect and identify the basic needs of the child.

The research had produced a number of key recommendations that focused on a range of actions to improve the identification of early neglect and improve the support available to families. These recommendations included:

- Focusing on the way the local authority engaged with and supported community groups and parents.
- Better modelling of positive parenting and sharing these skills with the community.
- Exploring how local authority engagement with community groups might be improved to help develop a deeper understanding of the long term consequences of neglect.

In Bracknell Forest, 80% of families with children aged five years old and under were registered with a Children's Centre and the centres were seen as being ideally placed to identify and support families where early neglect was a concern. To address this Bracknell Forest's Really Useful Guide to Neglect had been used to inform a set of indicators for early neglect and a screening process had been drawn up for staff to identify families in need of support at an early stage, together with a protocol to ensue concerns were escalated. Children's Centres 'early indicators of neglect screening tool' will be rolled out during 2017.

The LSCB also focused its attention on neglect by undertaking a detailed multi-agency audit on neglect which specifically looked children subject to child protection plans for neglect and is described in detail in section 2.7.4.

In addition, the Principal Social Worker organised learning events in order to share learning from local audits and finding from Serious Case Reviews that related to the issue of neglect. These events were well received by staff and this learning is supported through both individual and group based supervision. The content of the LSCB inter-agency training was also update during the year to ensure the issue of neglect was adequately addressed.

Neglect remains an area of concern for the LSCB, this concern informed by ongoing national issues, and through local research. It will therefore remain a targeted priority for the LSCB Business Plan 2014 -2017.

### **Targeted Priority 6**

**To further develop the co-ordination of protection and support to young people at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE)**

#### **CSE**

During 2015/26 the LSCB sought to further strengthen the existing work of the CSE sub-group and improve the oversight of missing children/young people. The sub group broadened its membership securing representation from the Voluntary Sector, Local Authority Licencing Team and Sexual Health Services. Members met every 3 months and

continued to develop the data, information and intelligence gathered. This in turn informed the LSCB's strategy and ensured responses were co-ordinated at an operational level.

The sub-group noted the development of more robust arrangements with the creation of the Sexual Exploitation Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (SEMRAC) model that ensures key partner agencies monitor children/young people at risk of CSE, individuals thought to pose a risk and locations associated with activities increasing the likelihood of CSE. The Chair of the SEMRAC provided increasingly detailed reports as to progress made towards achieving the aims of the CSE Action Plan and analysis of data helped strengthen the focus on its performance.



The group also welcomed the appointment of a specialist social worker (Missing and CSE) who has enabled improvements relating to the engagement of children/young people at risk and quickly gleaned important intelligence relating to CSE within the borough.

Learning stemming from serious case reviews, inspection, research and a range of national reports informed members understanding and guided the group's approach to:

- Reviewing its strategy and action plan.
- Engagement vulnerable children, including targeted group work in respect of young people at risk.
- Developing its CSE Communications Plan including a social media campaigns on the 'nine signs of CSE' and 'nine signs of internet safety'.
- Promoting awareness to parents, professional and amongst community groups.
- Evaluation of training including e-learning and contribution to single agency training.
- Development of the local CSE problem profile.
- Inter-agency auditing of missing children and CSE.
- Engaging voluntary/community sector organisations.
- Specific briefings/targeted training e.g. taxi drivers and hotel staff.

During the year the sub group also sought assurance as to:

- Arrangements for monitoring Children missing from education (CME).
- Responses made to disrupt activities within known 'Hotspots'.
- Arrangements to ensure safeguarding of looked after children in placements out of area.
- Awareness of CSE amongst professionals prescribing of emergency contraception.

As in previous years local developments have been informed by work undertaken within the wider Thames Valley region and learning established nationally, such as that published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

## Targeted Priority 7

**To increase the understanding of the harm associated with the misuse of technologies and further develop proactive strategies to support children / young people and their families.**

### Misuse of Technologies

The impact of the misuse of technology has increasingly become a feature of many areas of the Boards safeguarding activities. As a result the LSCB has continued encourage partners to raise awareness throughout 2015/16. This work was overseen by a dedicated group coordinated by the local Community Safety Partnership. Through their routine reporting the group ensured members of the LSCB were appraised of the challenges faced by children/young people in the Borough and cited recent research demonstrating the existence of similar issues across the UK and the global dimensions to be considered.

During the period of the report a programme of inter-agency training sessions on 'e-safety' was delivered with a specific training package developed for both existing and new foster carers. In turn training was also been delivered to social workers within the Family Placement Team. Improvements were also made to assessment, care planning and review processes to ensure internet safety issues were adequately identified and addressed.

Working in partnership with South West Grid for Learning and the Safer Internet Centre an internet safety workshop was well attended by a range of professionals working with children and young people. This event addressed a range of issues including the risk associated with online child sexual exploitation.



A new internet safety app, Gooseberry Planet, was piloted in two primary schools within the Borough in February 2016. This app provides communication between child, teacher and parent to ensure a coordinated approach to addressing issues of concern around internet use, and will be the subject of further evaluation to determine whether this should be promoted more widely.

Due to the increased level of concerns raised by partner agencies the issue of how technologies impact on children/young people will be subject to a further review

### 4.1.2 Performance Management

In addition to the oversight previously described within this report, members of the LSCB provided routine scrutiny of safeguarding informed by performance data.

#### LSCB Performance Data 2015/16

Neglect

Missing Children

Child Sexual Exploitation

Domestic Abuse

Substance misuse (children and parents/carers)

Mental Health (children and parents/carers)

Early Help
Homeless children and families
Vulnerable groups
Youth justice
Allegations against the workforce
Children's workforce vacancies and caseloads
Inter-agency training
Total CP, LAC and CiN
Referrals and re-referrals to CSC
Referrals to CSC going on to single assessment
Children deregistered from CP Plans lasting 2 years or more
Children becoming subject of a CP Plan for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent time
CP cases which were reviewed within required timescales
Looked after children by age band and gender
Placements of looked after children
Legal status of looked after children

## 4.2 Additional Areas of Activity and Challenge

### 4.2.1 Child Protection Conference and Review Team

The LSCB receive regular reports in respect of Child Protection Conference activity which is also subject of routine scrutiny via the Board's performance monitoring data.

During the year 247 child protection conferences were held took place during the period with 80 of these being initial conferences and 167 review conferences. Over the same period 148 children ceased to be subject to a child protection plan resulting in 115 children being subject to a child protection plan at the end of March 2016.

Improvements in respect of the management of conferences continued throughout the year and were informed by the consultations held with children/young people and the feedback received from others attending conferences. Further implementation of the Signs of Safety principles was seen to be effective and Conference Chairs completed further accredited training to develop and enhance their skills, which has in turn led to the team evaluating ways in which the model could be developed further.

This resulted in a formal adoption of the enhanced SOS format from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 which was reported to be working and has helped parents/carers better understand the needs of, and risks to their children.

During the year Chairs developed a ½ day training programme to support professionals attending Child Protection Conferences which is scheduled to be rolled out as part of LSCB's future programme of training.



The complaints processes available to those attending Child Protection Conferences was reviewed during the year and is now outlined within the LSCB's guidance available at:[http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/p\\_ch\\_protection\\_conf.html](http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/p_ch_protection_conf.html).

The role of the Child Protection Conferences in respect of those children/young people at risk of child sexual exploitation has continued to play an important part of ensuring their protection. The LSCB were assured that this remains the most appropriate means of safeguarding such children and young people and is supported by the enhanced assessment of such cases by the SEMRAC.

Regular audits of Child Protection Conferences enables monitoring of key factors relating to their effectiveness and helps inform the partners understanding of the issues directly effecting children and young people thought to be at risk of significant harm.

Domestic violence (60%) and being a victim of domestic abuse (69%) remains one the major issues for children/young people, closely followed by parental mental ill-health (53%) and parental alcohol and/or substance misuse (43%). With the exception of parents being looked after, parental learning difficulties and sexual offending, multiple indicators of harm were present in most cases. The co-occurrences of these indicators when combined can contribute to entrenched behaviour and commonly issues of neglect and emotional harm for children which are difficult to alleviate.

Although there continues to be children/young people who are subject to repeat plans, this is often due to the entrenched nature of some of the issues, especially neglect. However, the Local Authority has commissioned an audit of such cases to identify learning that will inform service improvement. However, children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second time are now the subject of a legal advice meeting which will provide additional analysis of their circumstances.

Reports received by the Board indicate that there continues to be good practice taking place within the Borough with positive outcomes for children. When necessary chairs challenge and support professionals to ensure processes remain responsive to the needs of children/young people and that partner agencies continue to collaborate to ensure effective joint working.

Work to implement a Permanency Strategy and updated Thresholds Guidance was undertaken following a peer Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic held during the year and will further inform measures to ensure prompt decision making to promote children's permanency and resilience.

The following priorities are proposed for the coming year 2016/17:

- Review of existing child protection case conference tracker system as part of caseload monitoring/capacity and appropriate challenge in place.
- Impact evaluation of the use of Signs of Safety Model to capture data in relation to improved outcomes for children and families.
- Review of throughput data in respect of re-registrations and long term plans through audit programme work.
- Evaluation and review of the impact of Advocacy processes to support increased engagement of children and young people involved in child protection plans.
- Review of Permanency Planning decision making processes.
- Review of participation data collection tool to ensure accurate audit capturing of children actively participating in their individual CP conferences.

The service reports on LSCB partner engagement and agencies then follow up within their own organisations to ensure CP processes are properly supported by all partners.

#### 4.2.2 Independent Reviewing Officer Service

- In addition to its routine monitoring of performance relating to Looked After Children, the LSCB also received details of the tenth annual report of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016
- The Board were assured as to the work of the service and analysis of the numbers, age, gender and ethnicity of children and additional information relating to their legal status and performance information about the timeliness of reviews, IRO caseloads and how IROs are fulfilling the requirements in the IRO Handbook 2010.
- The service ensures the participation of children and young people, parents and carers and the contribution of partner agencies and comments from children and young people who are looked after. Listening to the voice of the child and enabling children and young people to participate is a key function of the IRO role. Performance in this area was reported to have remained strong and detailed the efforts made to build on this through creative involvement of children chairing their own reviews are actively developed by the team.
- During the year there was significant focus on the development of quality assurance and performance monitoring including reporting to Senior Managers and to the Director Children, Young People and Learning. This is a key part of the IRO role and provides a good opportunity to feed back on key performance, practice and development issues.
- IROs within the Borough have further embedded escalation and dispute resolution processes to assist the service in fulfilling its independent function and to undertake challenge where this is required.

#### 4.2.3 Management of Allegations Against Staff

In addition to continuing to raise awareness of the processes relating to managing allegations made against staff, the LSCB receives regular data in respect of the work of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

The LADO provides advice and guidance to employers and other individuals/organisations that have concerns relating to an adult who works with children and young people (including volunteers, agency staff, foster carers, religious leaders, school governors etc.).

During 2015/16 the LSCB was assured that the referral processes linked to the function of the LADO had continued to be developed to ensure that all contacts made with the LADO are captured and accurately recorded.

Of the 82 referrals made to the services, 45 required no further action following a consultation with the LADO with 37 being progressed to a formal LADO Meeting.

The Board were informed that there had been a gradual rise in referrals to the LADO service during the year (see table below), which is likely to be as a result of greater awareness amongst employers and a specific Ofsted requirement requiring agencies to consult with the LADO over all child safeguarding concerns.

	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Referrals</b>	82	39	42	37	31
<b>Consultations</b>	N/A	33	18	19	16
<b>Total enquiries</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>

During the year, the LADO service continued to strengthen its links with partner agencies and private and voluntary organisations to ensure continued awareness about the thresholds and process for managing allegations and met with the GP Lead for Safeguarding, the Team Manager for Safeguarding & Inclusion and the safeguarding leads for some sporting groups and community organisations.

The LADO continued to contribute to training and through the LSCB facilitated an inter-agency workshop to promote awareness of procedures and organisational responsibilities. The service also provided induction sessions to new social workers within children's social care and attended the designated leads in education training day.

The LADO regularly met with the regional LADO network to share learning and develop joint approaches to this area of work including the management of performance data. The network also contributed to a review and revision of the LSCB procedures. Available at: [http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/p\\_alleg\\_against\\_staff.html](http://www.proceduresonline.com/berks/bracknell/p_alleg_against_staff.html)

Analysis of LADO activity indicate that the highest number of allegations relate to physical harm, the misuse of technologies and concerns relating to sexual activity.

However, the services continued to also evaluate suitability which has tended to relate to risk by association, inappropriate boundaries, social media use and concerns about conduct outside of work. The profile of such referrals underlines the importance of the steps taken by partner agencies to ensure policies are now in place to manage conduct issues and acceptable use of technology and social media.

The LSCB received the following recommendations from the service that will support further improvements:

- To continue to contribute to training and promote awareness of procedures for managing allegations with partner agencies.
- To strengthen links with partner agencies to ensure there is a continued awareness about the thresholds and process for managing allegations.
- To develop mechanisms for seeking feedback from professionals who have used/been subject to the service and from children and young people who may have made an allegation.
- Clear arrangements to be agreed for how the LADO service will be resourced within the Conference & Review Team and ensures LADOs receive specialist training in preparation for the role.
- The Head of Performance & Governance Service Manager to maintain regular and consistent oversight which is recorded on individual files.
- The LADO Service to further develop monitoring systems including an improved database.

#### 4.2.4 Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT)

Throughout the year the Community Safety Partnership oversaw the work of its Prevent Strategic Sub Group and the operation of the Channel Panel. A number of Board members also attend these meetings which ensures good links are maintained between these groups.

Despite the assessment that the Borough continued to be considered a low risk area, the LSCB held a workshop to ensure its partners all remained alert to the potential of young people becoming radicalised and involved in extremist activities.

The LSCB were informed of the substantial training provided across agencies during 2015/16 with partners encouraged to ensure all relevant staff accessed either the e-learning or group based events made available through the Board's programme of training. This training complimented that commissioned on a single agency basis by key partner agencies.

In addition to the above activities members of the LSCB received regular update reports from the Local Authority's Prevent Lead Officer and disseminated additional guidance to help inform learning from experience gathered from outside of the Borough. Further details of this work can be found at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/hatecrimeviolentextremism>.

#### 4.2.2 Bracknell Forest Council Complaints, Concerns and Compliments for Children, Young People and Learning Services

The LSCB receives an annual report in relation to the complaints function for Children's Social Care and has received assurance that this met the requirements of the relevant guidance and regulations. The report received sets out the process of the formal and informal representations received by the council, and contains detailed analysis of performance against the timescales and standard required. The Board were pleased to receive assurance that the overall management of complaints is robust with concerns and complaints managed well, and the process of investigating complaints undertaken with great sensitivity by the staff involved.

Comparatively speaking, Children's Social Care do not receive a high number of complaints, however the nature of those complaints that are received are often complex.

Whilst a complaint may be distressing to the individuals affected, (which includes the staff involved) they are a valuable mechanism for ensuring the on-going quality of the work undertaken and result in the delivery of high quality services.

### 4.3 Financial Information

The budget of the LSCB is monitored by the Independent Chair and Business Manager who in turn report to the LSCB. The majority of the Board's budget relates to staffing in support of the work of the Board.

The LSCB budget 2015-2016 was made up of contributions from the Local Authority, the CCG, Police, Probation, Broadmoor, CAF/CASS and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.



Supplies and services included expenditure for the cost of an Independent Chair, updates to the Child Protection Procedures and the costs associated with administering the LSCB training programme. This also covered printing costs for publicity materials and leaflets.

The LSCB has acknowledged the lack of capacity within the budget to meet the increased requirements placed on the Board. As a result the Chair has formally written to the Chief Executive of each statutory partner organisation proposing their contributions are increased for 2016/17.

#### 4.3.1 LSCB Income 2015/16

Percentage of partners contributions 2015/16	Amount (£)
BF Council	74.5%
Thames Valley Police	2.2%
CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)	18.0%
National Probation Service	0.9%
Broadmoor	0.5%
CAFCASS	0.4%
Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	0.9%
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospital	0.9%
One-off Donation (Johnson Wax Ltd)	1.8%

#### 4.3.2 LSCB Expenditure 2015/16

Expenditure 2015-16	Amount (£)
Staff costs	95,285.79
Training administration	5,000.00
Communication and community engagement	3,000.00
LSCB website hosting and support	500.00
CP Procedures web hosting and update*	3,483.33
Equipment, printing and meeting costs	3,471.60
Consultant costs	2,457.42
CSC rapid response payment	2,000.00
LSCB development day	1,038.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,236.49</b>

\* £416.66 was reimbursed from each Berkshire authority (total £2083.30)

## 5. Summary

### 5.1 Key Messages

As is evident within this report, there is an enormous amount of good work being undertaken across Bracknell Forest by dedicated staff and their managers. For the majority of children and young people living within the Borough the outcomes are good and much better than in many areas. However, we cannot afford to be complacent and must remain aware of the challenges we face in protecting those most vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

The LSCB has acknowledged that there is more improvement work to be done and in reviewing the progress against the Business Plan in place during this period, outlined in Section 4 it has revised its strategy and the priorities for the coming period 2016/17.

The Board recognises the unprecedented financial challenges for all agencies and therefore call's upon strategic partners, local agencies and the communities within the Borough to ensure core services remain strong during a period of financial uncertainty. It has identified the following LSCB priority areas for 2016/17:

- Increase the effectiveness of the safeguarding journey for children and young people.
- Ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements to reduce the impact of violence on children and young people.
- Ensure the effectiveness of the arrangements to provide Early Help provision.
- Strengthen arrangements in place to safeguard missing children and those at risk of CSE.
- Ensure the effectiveness of the steps partners must take to counter hate crime and extremism.

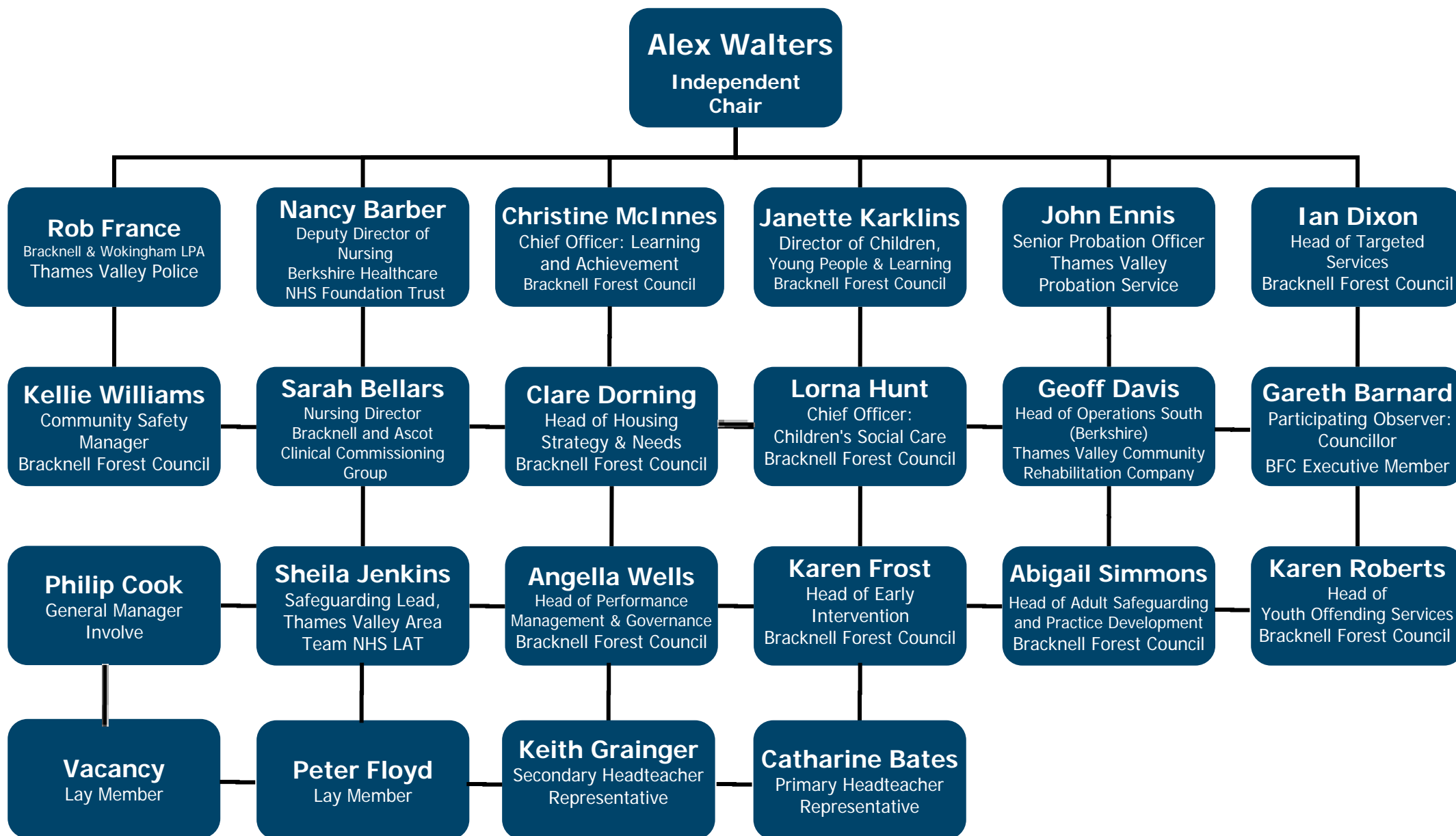


*The artwork used throughout this report was produced by looked after children and care leavers that previously featured in an art exhibition hosted in 2015.*

# LSCB Structure Chart



*\*Throughout the year a number of inter-agency 'Task and Finish' groups supported the work of the above Sub Groups supporting the LSCB's commitment to continued improvement.*





### Challenge Log 2015-16 (Content as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016)

No.	Description of Risk / Challenge	Group	Date of meeting	Action / Update	Complete /Roll Forward*
1	The Early Help Sub-group would be conducting a programme of audits on a range of subject areas and it had been agreed that homelessness risks would be included in this work	LSCB	22/05/2015	No evidence of this being undertaken. Clarify what early help audits are being done and ensure they are presented to the LISG	Roll forward to 2016-17.
2	CAHMS were carrying out data analysis to assess whether any interventions could have been put in place earlier.	Forum	12/06/2015	Report received which gives details of a two staged approach to achieve a sustainable, high quality integrated CAMHS service based on 5 pathways, with increased out of hours provision and maximum waits of 6-12 weeks.	Complete
3	It was noted that the safeguarding of adolescents was a growing area of work and that it was important that the partners ensured arrangements were robust and the LSCB would co-ordinate a review of their work in this area.	Forum	12/06/2015	JP to conduct a review as part of the LSCB Business Plan Review in 2016/17.  There is a task and finish group established to look at this.	Complete
4	The Early Help Sub-group has been disbanded and it was proposed that oversight would be further developed to ensure that all areas were adequately integrated or linked.	Board	13/11/2015	To request reports on Troubled Families and neglect projects come to the Board in 2016.	Complete
5	The Strategic CSE and Missing Group had identified a cohort of children who were missing from education and their whereabouts unknown.	CSE SSG LISG	03/12/2015 17/12/2015	An extra-ordinary meeting of the Operational CSE Group has been held to look at the mechanisms in place to assure the wellbeing of these children. A number of those classified as missing had since been located. A review is being undertaken.	Roll forward to 2016/17
6	Many young people vulnerable are still vulnerable to exploitation when they reach 18 years old. However many do not meet the new eligibility criteria for adult social care services and are left unsupported. It was noted that this group also included LAC and young parents. It was agreed that this was a considerable safeguarding risk.	CSE SSG LSCB Forum	25/06/2015 22/05/2015 12/06/2015	This issue was raised at the CSE SSG, the Board and Forum but no action except to add to risk register.	Roll forward to 2016/17.
7	Agencies not responding to CSE Scoping Survey/Self Audit as part of local problem profiling. Risk of LSCB / Partners not having full understanding of CSE in the Borough.	CSE SSG	25/09/2014 12/03/15 25/06/15 29/01/2016 (Board)	Chair challenge to partner agencies who had not responded. Analysis of those returns is the subject of a current review of progress via sub group. Most of the agencies have now responded. The Chair of the strategic group will review and consider what approach to adopt going forward (such as Oxfordshire Stocktake). There were concerns about resources to co-ordinate a	Complete

				new CSE profile.	
8	Support provided by BFC in relation to communications (re CSE) may not be available in the future and raised concerns about capacity for disseminating information and social media campaigns.	Board	29/01/2016	It was agreed this would be clarified and the Board formally informed of any decision.  The Board were assured this would continue.	Complete
9	Insufficiency of LSCB budget. It was noted that capacity and resourcing as well as any risks that had been highlighted by the Chair in her biannual report to the Leader and Chief Executive of Bracknell Forest Council.	LSCB meetings	Raised at every LSCB since September 14.	Letters from Chair in Jan 15 to CEOs of all statutory partners requesting clear increase for 16/17. Further letter sent Nov 15. This is an ongoing issue. There has been extra resource for BM to work an additional day each week. A further letter was sent in Feb 2016. Additional resource secured from Police, CCG remains the same and reduction in funding from Probation.	Complete
10	Concern regarding DA notifications (on SCR action plan)	LISG	12/06/2015 17/12/2015	Issue had by raised by IC with Chair of TV Steering Group to address and assurance provided by the police. This year will see the implementation of the MASH. The LSCB will monitor how this affects DA notifications in its audit (in partnership with CSP) in 2016/17.	Complete
11	It was questioned whether the low number of cases being considered under the MARAC process was an accurate reflection and why only a small number of agencies submitted reports.	LSCB	22/05/2015	Training had been provided to staff to raise awareness of MARAC and its reporting processes (18.9.15) including CSC (Forum 16.10.15). A self-assessment to be completed by DA Steering Group where it was agreed that possible reasons would be explored as part of wider audit and review work. The DA Exec is currently progressing this issue but it has been poorly supported.	Roll forward in 2016/17
12	Policies and Procedures Sub-group had not ensured policies were up to date on Berkshire procedures.	LSCB	17/07/2015	A new interim Chair from Bracknell appointed to re-commission Tri-x service and review policies (18.9.15). Update brought to Nov LSCB on progress and Chair has written again to Slough Chair to request evidence of progress. Further assurance sought at the Berks Chairs and Business Managers Meeting in Feb 16.	Complete

13	CP Chairs report reported on agency participation at conferences. There was challenge that partners should be routinely monitoring attendance of their staff at CP conferences and core groups. GPs do not routinely attend conferences and alternative participation methods would be shared.	LSCB	17/07/2015	The LSCB Chair provided information on GP role in CP conference in Surrey and Slough. This would be considered in BF (18.9.15). It was not possible to provide data on who should attend CP conferences. Dec update - Awaiting analysis from CCG. The CCG and Named GP to meet with CP Chairs in 2016.	Roll forward 2016/17.
14	There were concerns about GPs not undertaking Section 11 returns at a national level and the Chair would write to request an update on progress.	LISG	16/10/2015	The Chair wrote to Sheila Jenkins, NHS Safeguarding Lead in Nov 15, who will be taking this up. Further progress led by Bracknell Named GP and a new S11 format agreed and will be monitored through Pan-Berks S11 Sub-Group.	Complete
15	Wokingham and Bracknell Forest LPAs to merge. LSCB Chair to ask TVP to give assurance in their continued involvement with the LSCB and clarification on its impact on safeguarding.	LSCB	18/09/2015	Assurance given by LPA Commander (13/11/15) and the LSCB will continue to monitor.	Complete
16	It was reported that the request for changes to be made to the NHS Pathways programme had been submitted through a centralised feedback process. Consequently it would not be possible to track its progress through the system and ascertain whether the requested change had been implemented. It was agreed that this would be followed up with NHS Pathways.	LISG	20/08/2015	AW wrote to NHS Pathways- no response has been received. Dec update - CCG to escalate. Mar 16 - CCG written to SCAS for update and to be raised at the health strategic group which is meeting in May.	Roll forward in 2016/17.
17	The Pan Berks S11 group have raised concern about representation from CS and TVP. Requested that a letter is sent from each LSCB to TVP and local DCS at S11 panel meetings.	Berks S11 Panel IC's mtg LISG	10/06/2015 Oct 2015 17/12/2015	Update - TVP has committed someone to attend the meeting. Further request made for CSC with the Berks Directors of CSC by Janette Karklins but to date there has been no response. This would be followed up. Confirmed CSC representative attending from Reading.	Complete
18	The Early Years Team have encountered a number of occasions when, due to cultural issues, child care providers did not understand why they needed to adhere to certain programmes for example healthy eating or learning schemes.	Forum	12/06/2015	It was agreed that a report outlining the issue and setting out how the problem was being tackled would be brought to a future meeting by Karen Frost if thought to be of significance.	Complete

19	There are opportunities to strengthen links with John Nike Leisure where many young people attend. They do not have to complete S11 as they are not commissioned by council.	CSE SSG	24/09/2015	Two emails have been sent to arrange a visit with JP and KR but there has been no response. JP to contact someone at LA for a name to contact directly at John Nike. Update - A meeting has taken place and they will be linking with CCE Sub-Group.	Complete
20	There are issues with representation on the E-Safety group and the work being carried out with schools as personnel in education not replaced.	CSE SSG	24/09/2015	A paper to address these issues will taken to the Board in Jan 16. Debbie Smith will now oversee e-safety in schools (15-12-15).	Complete
21	There is an ongoing criminal investigation into the provider of a commissioned residential service following the identification of an inappropriate relationship between a member of staff and a young person using the service. This had been appropriately referred to the LADO and shared with the LSCB.	LISG	17/12/2015	It was expected that there would be some learning from the case and the LSCB would formally engage with the service once the criminal /disciplinary case had concluded to request assurance around safe recruitment and safeguarding practice. This will go to the next LISG.	Roll forward to 2016-17
22	Evidence is required of the safeguarding training carried out by partner agencies and the impact of training on practitioners.	LISG	17/12/2015	This is linked to the training strategy plan for 2016-17 and a paper is being taken to the Board in Jan 16. Update - BF has come out of the East Berks Training arrangement and will now need to ensure they look at the issue of impact.	Complete
23	Funding pressures mean that the PICADA programme would not continue. It is not known if there will be an alternative resource to support children and young people subject to living in a household with DA.	Board Forum	29/01/2016 15/04/2016	The LSCB was clear that services to support children affected by DA needed to be considered a priority for the commissioners at DA Executive. CSP are still looking for alternative provision (Board 18/3). Further discussion was held at the LSCB Forum in regards to the DA services consultation.	Roll forward to 2016-17.
24	Potentially a vulnerable group of children being educated at home (EHE).	Board	29/01/2016	A more detailed report to be presented at a future meeting.	Roll forward to 2016-17.
25	There would be a gap in representation on the Berks Policies and Procedures Sub-Group and Chair of the group was unknown following personnel changes. There was concern that these changes would result in the group losing direction.	Board and LISG	13/11/2015 and 17/12/15	Assurance on the matter would be sought from Slough LSCB. As above.  Update - Head of Safeguarding agreed to attend for BF and the Chair has been confirmed.	Complete

26	The question of whether a summary of GP inspection reports in lieu of full Section 11 returns was sufficient had been raised by a number of the Berkshire LSCBs and the concern would be raised at the South East Regional Chairs meeting.	LISG	20/08/2015	This was done and raised at TV Chairs meeting and AW to write to NHSE to request update. Dec update - CC updated on the work that is taking place and that the S11 tool is being taken to the TV GP Group in Jan 2016.	Complete
27	The LSCB needs to consider how it can measure the impact from actions and recommendations arising from SCRs and other audits	LISG	20/08/2015	Dec update - Audit commissioned for May 2016.	Complete
28	New regulations regarding disqualification of staff by association might have an impact on the ability of schools to recruit staff and there could be implications if staff were recruited from overseas.	Forum	12/06/2015	This was an area that required monitoring and the Forum would be kept informed of any issues arising from these changes. DBS bulletin was circulated with clarification in Nov 15. Paul Young, LA HR lead to do an update Apr 16.	Complete
29	There was a proposal to increase costs of multi-agency training which could deter staff from attending.	Board	13/11/2015	A paper to address these issues will be taken to the Board in Jan 16. Update - this has been agreed from April 2016	Complete
30	There is a risk around joint planning and information sharing with CSE Ops Sub Group and Probation Service as they do not receive frequent updates in regard to suspected perpetrators and have limited capacity to attend group.	CSE SSG	25/06/2015	National Probation Service have received a full list of potential CSE perpetrators from CSC and will be meeting to undertake regular reviews.	Complete
31	A clear policy is needed stating which independent / commissioned agencies and organisations will be asked to complete S11 self-assessments. Risk was identified as having providers based within the area that were not subject to LSCB or LA scrutiny.	Berks S11 Panel	10/06/2015	Proposals have been made by the Sub Group and will be raised at the next Berkshire LSCB Chair & Leads Meeting. Individual LSCBs to identify providers to include in local S11 returns.	Complete
32	Concerns were raised regarding the draft S11 annual report and its failure to identify clearer outputs and learning. Risk was identified as primarily the drift in ensuring partners were subject to a robust programme of audit.	Berks S11 Panel	10/06/2015	Report now amended to include additional information. Some assurance was provided regarding periods of apparent in action during 3 year cycle of audit. BF LSCB has invested more heavily in ensuring a comprehensive programme is now in place. S11 Chair updated at IC and BM meeting in October 2015.	Complete
33	TVP to submit a report to provide assurance of dealing with outstanding forensic examination	LISG	23/04/2015	Assurance given at LISG on 12 June 15.	Complete
34	CSC to review their assessment of risk on Police CPIN.	LISG	23/04/2015	This was reviewed at LISG and considered sound.	Complete

35	Concern regarding RSL's lack of co-operation with MAPPA and high-risk sex offender	LISG	23/04/2015	Probation had received legal advice on eviction and this confirmed that social landlords only had a duty to co-operate and not provide accommodation. The individual was now living in approved accommodation and further work by the LSCB with providers was on the work plan.	Complete
36	Need to ensure that any issues are identified with obtaining appropriate adults for young people in custody.	LSCB	17/07/2015	EDT confirmed that further appropriate adults had been recruited and had attended young people in custody where necessary. EDT will attend LSCB in 2016 to further discuss.	Complete
37	The need for commissioning of services where children were subject to child protection plans for neglect would be raised with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.	LSCB	17/07/2015	Raised at CYPP on 12/10/15. Assurance was received from Chair of CYP Partnership.	Complete
38	There was a challenge on whether the current Principal Social Worker function was being undertaken appropriately by an operational manager.	LSCB	17/07/2015	IC has challenged LA (Dec 2015).	Complete
39	TV Community Rehabilitation Company had significant increase in workload that could impact on representation at the LSCB.	LSCB	18/09/2015	It has been agreed that the TVCRC will feed in via new annual reporting process.	Roll forward to 2016/17.
40	Number of children at a domestic abuse incident still not received from TVP.	LSCB	18/09/2015	This data has now been received.	Complete
41	There was a lack of information pertaining to substance misuse by parents and carers. Greater detail would be requested and the Chair and Business Manager would meet with representatives from these services.	LSCB	18/09/2015	Meeting took place 13/11/15. Reporting and representation has been strengthened.	Complete
42	There were difficulties in identifying an appropriate trainer to co-deliver CSE training	LISG	20/08/2015	Talking Life were commissioned to deliver it because no practitioners were available to co-facilitate. There was good feedback and this is set to continue.	Complete
43	LSCB concerns over attendance at the Lead doctor meetings would be followed up by the CCG.	LISG	20/08/2015	Primary care attendance at Lead Doctor meetings are being monitored by CCG.	Complete
44	Concern was expressed that the support given to childminders to help them complete their section 11 returns was unlikely to continue due to resource constraints. It was requested that a report providing the context for this approach be brought to the Sub-group's next meeting so that a full discussions of its potential implications could take place.	LISG	20/08/2015	Representation made to Head of Service who replied that support would continue but how this is delivered could change, for example group sessions rather than one-to-one. (LISG 16-10-15)	Complete

45	The Troubled Families Programme is seeing increasing numbers of adults with a range of mental health needs that are impacting on children within the family.	Forum	12/06/2015	Work is taking place to develop more joint working so that these children can receive appropriate support and will be reported on through Troubled Families report in 2016/17.	Complete
46	Some impetus around raising awareness had been lost without the sub-group.	Forum	16/10/2015	It was agreed that a small group would be convened to explore this more fully. A proposal to set up the Communication and Community Engagement Sub-group led by Peter Floyd was taken to the LISG on 17.12.15 and the group agreed to form a new sub-group.	Complete
47	MODUS computer system is an issue with DA referrals	Board	18/03/2016	This issue will be raised through the Berkshire DA Co-ordinators and ICs.	Roll forward in 2016/17
48	Proposal to disband the e-safety sub-group which comes under the Community Safety Team. The LSCB thought the group should not be disbanded until robust governance in place.	Board	18/03/2016		Roll forward in 2016/17

*\*The risks/challenges listed above are subject to constant amendment as ongoing efforts are made to ensure required improvements are addressed.*