



Bracknell Forest LSCB Annual Report

April 2011 to March 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was established in April 2006 and is chaired by an Independent Chair, Alex Walters, who was appointed in September 2011 and is not an employee of any of the organisations working with children or families in Bracknell Forest.

The LSCB's primary purpose is to improve outcomes for children and young people and it has a collective statutory responsibility to monitor and hold all partners to account for their safeguarding arrangements. The partnership works together to ensure early identification of emerging safeguarding needs and to respond quickly and effectively. We also strive to learn from situations where children or young people need protection, to identify what works well, what needs to change and what we could do differently, together. In statutory guidance¹, these functions are referred to as:

- ◆ 'ensure the effectiveness' of local services safeguarding and child protection practice; and
- ◆ 'Co-ordinate services' to promote the welfare of children and families.

That includes a broad range of responsibilities, from raising awareness of child safeguarding and protection with professionals, volunteers, children, young people and the communities they live in; through to reviewing child deaths and conducting Serious Case Reviews.

The LSCB's strategic priorities for 2011-2013 include:

- To work with partner agencies to reduce incidences of domestic violence and the impact this has on children, young people and families.
- To work with partner agencies to analyse, understand and seek ways to reduce the impact of substance and alcohol misuse on children, young people and families.
- To work with partner agencies to develop a greater understanding of neglect and the impact this has on children, young people and families; and to work together to reduce the number of children experiencing neglect.
- To ensure safer workforce processes across the partnership are robust and fully embedded and the LSCB fulfils its statutory functions.

¹ Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2010

The LSCB brings together senior managers who represent a broad range of organisations that work together to promote the welfare of, or protect, children and young people.

2. ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The LSCB is required² to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report covers LSCB activities from April 2011 to March 2012 and is the sixth Annual Report of the LSCB.

This document provides the LSCB's assessment of the following areas:

- The assessment of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and response to case reviews
- Performance Management
- Achievements and Challenges
- Assessment of Policies and Procedures
- Feedback to, and challenge of, the Health & Well-Being Board and the Children and Young People's (CYP) Partnership
- Feedback to, and challenge of, Police & Crime Commissioner, Bracknell Forest Council Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

In response to the recommendations from Bracknell Forest LSCB's 2010-11 Annual Report, the CYP Partnership made a range of changes to policy and practice; this is included in Annex 1.

3. THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSE TO CASE REVIEWS.

This section looks at how well organisations keep children and young children safe in Bracknell Forest and also what lessons have been learnt, what has worked well and what might need to change.

The LSCB assesses the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements in various ways, including:

- Section 11 safeguarding self-assessments
- Individual case analysis (including child deaths and Serious Case Reviews)
- Review of safeguarding incidents
- Review of performance management information.

In October 2011 Ofsted conducted an 'Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services; which concluded:

'The overall effectiveness of the council and its partners in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is good. Good quality services are provided by the partnership to help children and young people feel and keep safe with appropriate joint action to respond to identified concerns and needs. The Children and Young People's Partnership and Bracknell Forest Local Safeguarding

² Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

Children Board (LSCB) are well established and provide clear strategic direction on safeguarding matters.'

The LSCB's approach to performance management, leadership and ethos of shared responsibility for safeguarding were all highlighted as local strengths. In particular the LSCB's commitment to improving outcomes for children was praised by Ofsted, highlighting a number of areas as examples of good practice.

What impact did Ofsted identify that Bracknell Forest LSCB had made to the lives of children and young people in the borough?

- ❖ The successful implementation of the sexual offences analysis recommendations, which contributed to a reduction of sexual offences against children and young people (a reduction of 25.5% at the time of inspection, against the previous year);
- ❖ the tools for analysing, and responding to, the risk associated with children missing from education and missing from home, which has reduced the number of inappropriate missing children reports within the borough;
- ❖ the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Toolkit, cuecards and the development of safeguarding contractual clauses in improving partnership safeguarding practice i.e. the more organisations that meet the LSCB's minimum standard for safeguarding practice, the greater the shared responsibility for safeguarding, which increases the opportunity to safeguard and protect children and young people in the borough;
- ❖ the impact of the partnership's participation work with children and young people – particular as a peer-education tool, enabling young people to raise the safeguarding awareness of other young people;
- ❖ the effective performance monitoring framework in place for the LSCB and the responsiveness of the LSCB to performance analysis information e.g. performance analysis leading to proactive safeguarding activity by the LSCB.³

In addition the 'Unannounced Inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in June 2011' identified no priority areas for action and highlighted a number of strengths including the training and development of the social workers in the borough and the responsiveness to feedback from parents/carers and children shaping service development.³

Ofsted identified the following area for development:

'The presence of children at domestic violence incidents is not routinely recorded by police or the duty team. However, managers are aware of this shortfall and are taking appropriate action. Inspectors did not identify any children at risk as a result of this practice.'

The LSCB has monitored this area very closely, which has resulted in a series of recommendations and strategic challenge (see 'Achievements and Challenges' section).

Section 11 Self Assessments:

Bracknell Forest LSCB has continued its three year strategy to ensure that all organisations working with children, young people or parents/carers in the borough self-assess the extent to which they adhere to the Children Act 2004, Section 11 safeguarding responsibilities (i.e.

³ Please see Ofsted's website for the full report: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/bracknell-forest>

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information sharing; clear statement of Agency's responsibilities; senior management commitment to safeguarding; safer workforce practice; training; clear line of accountability for child protection; effective inter-agency working and that service development takes account of safeguarding).

In the first phase all statutory partner organisations were asked to self-assess; in the second phase all schools (including private and independent schools) were asked to self-assess; in the third phase all voluntary, community, faith and early years settings were asked to self-assess. In 2011/12 the LSCB's primary focus was on the safeguarding self-assessments from Early Years, Childcare and Play providers and also those from voluntary, community and faith sector providers.

Most organisations that completed Section 11 assessments put robust action plans in place to ensure that actions were addressed in a timely fashion. The LSCB seeks progress reports on achievements against these action areas approximately a year after review of the sector's self-assessments are completed by the LSCB.

As a result of this process, the LSCB highlights specific concerns to the CYP Partnership in this 2011/12 annual report about the following areas:

- ❖ Some voluntary, community, faith and private/independent sector providers were non-compliant with local minimum standards for organisations providing services to children or young people i.e.
 - ensuring staff/volunteers were subject to safer workforce checks;
 - ensuring staff/volunteers attended mandatory safeguarding training;
 - having an organisational safeguarding/child protection policy, which includes information on how to manage child protection concerns, contact details for Children's Social Care and EDT;
 - having a nominated lead person for child protection.

Each of the organisations that had significant development areas or were non-compliant with minimum standards received correspondence, phone calls or visits from representatives of the LSCB or safeguarding representatives in the sector. In total in the region of 100 organisations/providers received individual follow-up in 2011/12.

What difference have the safeguarding self-assessments made to the lives of children and young people in the borough?

Individual support meetings with organisations that have received assistance to complete safeguarding self-assessments or make changes to their practice, have in some cases resulted in children and young people in need of support or protection being identified and appropriately referred.

Working together to ensure that every organisation that supports children, young people, or families, meets the minimum standards for safeguarding increases our opportunity to identify needs early and respond appropriately.

The Section 11 Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Panel and the Early Years Section 11 Panel have identified common development areas relating to:

- 1) defining organisational governance arrangements for child protection and safeguarding i.e. who has responsibility for overseeing child protection arrangements;

- 2) understanding and following safer workforce processes, particularly when and how to refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

In response to this learning the LSCB is offering individual and group support to organisations about lines of accountability for child protection and in partnership with the LADO, the LADO role and responsibilities were more actively promoted from September 2012 onwards.

Recommendation to the Health & Well-Being Board:

To ensure that Clinical Commissioning Groups and other commissioned health providers adhere to Bracknell Forest LSCB's minimum safeguarding standards and have completed a satisfactory Section 11 self-assessment.

Recommendation to the CYP Partnership:

To ensure that organisations commissioned by statutory partner agencies to provide services to children, young people or families adhere to Bracknell Forest LSCB's minimum safeguarding standards and have completed a satisfactory Section 11 self-assessment.

Serious Case Review

The LSCB concluded a Serious Case Review (SCR) in September 2011. A SCR is conducted when 'a child dies or is seriously harmed, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor'. SCR's are intended to:

- Establish what lessons can be learnt (both inter and intra agency);
- Agree what will change as a result;
- To improve inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The LSCB has a responsibility to disseminate the learning from the SCR process and this has been achieved through presentations and workshops to an extensive range of professional groups and senior leadership and management teams in a range of agencies; and strategic partnerships including the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. In addition, a presentation on the SCR was presented to the 250 attendees at the LSCB's Annual Conference in June 2012 and a workshop capturing the learning from the SCR and also the 4 Case Review 'through the eyes of a child', was provided to a broad range of staff and volunteers.

The LSCB is monitoring progress against the SCR recommendations and will continue to review the impact of these recommendations on outcomes for children.

Recommendation to the Health & Well-Being Board:

To ensure that the local Clinical Commissioning Group has oversight of the recommendations from the Serious Case Review relating to General Practice and Health providers and ensures that the learning from the review informs the performance monitoring and quality assurance systems for CCGs and General Practice.

Recommendation to the CYP Partnership:

To ensure that the learning from the Serious Case Review informs the strategic priorities of the CYP Plan; and directly informs the development of the Early Intervention Hub and the continued development of 'Shared Processes' i.e. Common Assessment Framework (CAF).

Four Case Review

In addition to the SCR, the LSCB also conducted a review of three other children under the age of one who were referred to the LSCB for discussion, because they may have met the criteria for a SCR. A SCR was not conducted on these children, but in order to learn from their cases a 4 Case Review analysis was undertaken, to see if the LSCB needed to make further changes (i.e. beyond those identified in the SCR) to safeguard children more effectively.

A summary of the learning from the 4 Case Review is included in Annex 2. It is too early to comment on the impact that the recommendations from this review have had on children and young people in Bracknell Forest, this will be monitored in the 2012/13 Annual Report.

Recommendation to the Health & Well-Being Board:
To ensure that the Health & Well-Being Board and the local Clinical Commissioning Group has oversight of the recommendations from the 4 Case Review relating to General Practice, Health Visiting and Midwifery and ensures that the learning from the review informs the performance monitoring and quality assurance systems for CCGs.
Recommendation to the CYP Partnership:
To ensure that the learning from the 4 Case Review informs the strategic priorities of the CYP Plan; and directly informs the development of the Early Intervention Hub.

Child Deaths

LSCB's are required in Working Together to Safeguard Children to have:

' A sub-committee of the LSCB(s) known as the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) should be responsible for reviewing the available information on all child deaths, and should be accountable to the LSCB Chair.'⁴

The six Berkshire LSCBs jointly fund a Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) to fulfil this function.

In addition, the LSCB SCR sub-group noted the deaths of seven children in 2011/12. Two of these deaths required individual discussion and review, from which the LSCB concluded that:

- ❖ The LSCB Independent Chair would write to central government to identify information exchange difficulties following the death of children overseas and request governmental review of these processes;
- ❖ That the LSCB with the support of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) would review the consistency of advice provided to parents in the post-natal period about bed-sharing or co-sleeping, by Health Visiting and Midwifery services; with a view to consistently promoting safe sleeping arrangements for infants and small children.

Recommendation to the Health & Well-Being Board:
That the Health & Well-Being Board considers the advice provided by community health professionals on co-sleeping or bed-sharing and promotes safe sleeping arrangements for infants and small children.

⁴ Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2010, p. 208

Quality Standards and Case Review

The Quality Standards and Case Review sub-group of the LSCB analyses multi-professional, information, assessment and support to children and young people, under a series of thematic areas. In 2011/12 the group considered:

- ❖ children who were subject to repeat referrals to specialist services, or who had prolonged engagement with specialist services;
- ❖ children missing from education or missing from home;
- ❖ children witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse.

The findings from the domestic abuse analysis will be discussed and approved by the LSCB in summer 2012 and so will feature in the LSCB's 2012/13 Annual Report. The recommendations from the other two themes of analysis were:

- ◆ That all Partners Agencies should be encouraged to ensure that:
 - i) assessments for children/ young people with significant or complex needs, automatically consider whether there are other siblings in the household that may be affected by these needs i.e. with a particular focus on younger siblings;
 - ii) assessments and action plans are informed by the learning from effective/ineffective support of these complex or multiple needs;
 - iii) that the lead professional/key worker role was potentially particularly pivotal in this i.e. ensuring learning is not lost.
- ◆ That the CAF review considers:
 - a) what provision can be made in CAF training and guidance to ensure that additional or complex needs from other siblings in the family/household are considered, in the context of the impact of these on the child that is central to the assessment (with specific reference to siblings); and that tried and tested support/interventions for the siblings/families informs action planning;
 - b) whether the model of 'linked CAFs' or 'family CAFs' from other areas of the country may be of use locally;
 - c) how staff and volunteers can be best supported to seek the voice of younger children in assessment processes and where there is inconsistency in the perception of the needs/strengths of the child, that strategies for managing this situation are considered i.e. ensuring the views of other professionals working with the child feature in the assessment.
- ◆ That the Integrated Care Pathways (ICP) Chairs (via the Shared Processes sub-group) are also asked to consider how the additional or complex needs of other siblings in the family/household are considered, and what consideration is given to the impact of the needs of other siblings upon a child that is subject to ICP referral. ICP Chairs are also asked to consider what support other members of the household have received, or are receiving, and what impact that has made.
- ◆ That Berkshire East Training sub-group, in consultation with colleagues in Early Years Childcare and Play, are asked to consider how staff and volunteers working with 0-8 year olds could be supported with creative ways of seeking the views of younger children and that a training/seminar on this topic could be piloted.

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- ◆ That the Raising Awareness sub-group disseminates this learning to frontline staff and volunteers.

In response to the specific learning relating to children missing from education, the QSCR group developed a risk assessment tool for children missing from education, designed to support universal services to assess the level of risk associated with a child missing from education. The tool helps staff and volunteers to identify an appropriate response to the level of risk they identify e.g. notifying Children's Social Care of a child protection concern; notifying Thames Valley Police of a missing child; notifying Education Welfare of a child missing from education. The tool was introduced to Headteachers in September 2011 and is being trialled by schools; the outcome of the trial will be reported in the 2012/13 Annual report, but Ofsted noted the immediate success of the tool in improving outcomes for children in the Announced Inspection.

What difference have the changes in practice (following QSCR analysis) made to the lives of children and young people in Bracknell Forest?

Headteachers have commented on how the risk assessment tool for children missing from education has clarified how to manage a situation in which a child is missing from education, by considering the level of risk.

"This risk assessment tool has proved to be invaluable in schools, as it ensures that Headteachers can be confident that all measures are followed when a child leaves the school unexpectedly. The Administrative Team at Sandy Lane report that the comprehensive checklist is simple to use and quickly alerts them to a problem, should a child leave without prior notice." *Liz Norris, Headteacher, Sandy Lane Primary School.*

"The guidance and procedures are helpful and it has provided clarity. Based on our experience, it is a valuable tool for school workers." *Keith Grainger, Headteacher, Garth Hill College*

In turn, Thames Valley Police have seen a reduction in inappropriate missing children reports within the borough, allowing them to use resource more effectively.

In parallel to the thematic analysis work, the QSCR group also reviewed Partner Agency safeguarding related Quality Assurance/ Audit frameworks and identified that approximately half of the agencies contacted do not have a framework for safeguarding related audit. The LSCB subsequently developed and promoted an Exemplar Safeguarding Audit Tool to all partner agencies, this was promoted to the 250 attendees at the LSCB's 19th June 2012 Annual Conference and is an addition to the Safeguarding Toolkit resources.

Recommendation to the Health & Well-Being Board:

That the Health & Well-Being Board consider the potential application of the Exemplar Safeguarding Audit Tool to audit the child protection practice of health economy providers.

Recommendation to the CYP Partnership:

That the CYP Partnership reviews the progress it has made with implementing the learning from QSCR analysis and considers how the findings could inform the development of the Early Intervention Hub.

4. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT ON LOCAL SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

In January 2011 Bracknell Forest Council's Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel conducted a Review of Safeguarding Children and Young People. The review concluded that:

*'In overall terms, in all major respects we are very satisfied that the Council and its partners have done all they reasonably can to safeguard children and young people. This is notwithstanding the observations and recommendations made elsewhere in this report, which point out the need for constant improvement. It behoves everyone not to be complacent or relax their efforts for one moment.'*⁵

The report noted the strength of partnership working in Bracknell to safeguard children and also the success of the LSCB's Safeguarding Toolkit and the safeguarding cuecards. An overview of the progress that the LSCB has made with the recommendations from the report is included in Annex 3.

In addition, examples of the LSCB's young people's participation work, which have been identified as national examples of best practice, have been shared with Overview and Scrutiny.

Following Overview and Scrutiny's analysis of safeguarding, the committee undertook a review of the use of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in the context of early intervention and 'early help'. This review was published in January 2012 and has been used to inform the development of 'Creating Opportunities – Positive Futures,' a prevention and early intervention strategy for children, young people and families (2012-14). Progress against this will be included in the LSCB 2012/13 Annual report.

Performance Management

In 2010/11 Bracknell Forest LSCB led the initiative to reduce the Berkshire LSCB Comprehensive Dataset in order to focus on indicators of particular relevance for the Berkshire LSCB's. The analysis of this information continues to effectively inform the strategic priorities of the LSCB.

The exception report summarising the conclusions from the 2011/12 performance analysis is included in Annex 4. In summary, in 2011/12 the LSCB has been encouraged by the following developments:

- ✓ A reduction of sexual offences against children and young people of 16% compared to the 2009-2011.
- ✓ An increase in contacts to the LADO for advice and guidance, from a broad range of partner organisations.

The LSCB will continue to give particular attention to monitoring:

- The rate of homelessness and temporary accommodation for children and young people;

⁵ Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel conducted a Review of Safeguarding Children and Young People (January 2011), p.65, para 4.33

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- The number of children subject to a Child Protection plan for a first time, and for a second or subsequent time;
- The stability of placements for Looked After Children;
- Young peoples use of mephedrone and other illegal substances and the LSCB will explore the interface between use of mephedrone and risks associated with sexual offences;
- The rate of referrals and re-referral to specialist services;
- The rate of permanent exclusions;
- The rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system.

5. ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

During 2011/12 Bracknell Forest LSCB sought agreement from the six Berkshire LSCB's to introduce additional guidance to the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures on:

- ❖ whistle-blowing
- ❖ managing bruising and injuries to immobile infants
- ❖ the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of early years professionals
- ❖ discharge protocols for children and young people from Hospital.

The LSCB is specifically required to comment in the Annual Report on the effectiveness of the following policies and procedures:

Safe Recruitment

The LSCB Safer Workforce training programme was reviewed and updated in 2011/12, in association with the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. Over 400 attendees have attended the programme since its introduction in 2009; and places continue to be purchased on the training by neighbouring authorities.

6. SINGLE AND INTER-AGENCY TRAINING

Highlights from the ongoing development of safeguarding training include:

- A new Group 3 training programme was implemented across Berkshire East in September 2011 and has been consistently positively evaluated.
- A new evaluation framework for training was introduced at the end of the financial year to start to monitor the impact of training on professional practice, and by extension, on outcomes for children.
- A new Group 5 training programme for Named and Designated professionals in Berkshire East is under development and will be launched in November 2012.
- Due to the positive evaluations of the sexual offences training and the continued strategic priority to reduce sexual offences against children and young people, this training has been mainstreamed into the LSCB training programme.
- In response to the learning from the Serious Case Review a series of bespoke seminars and training workshops on understanding the vulnerabilities of small children and infants have been provided to the workforce.

7. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

2011/12 has been a successful year for Bracknell Forest LSCB and there is much to celebrate, for example:

- The LSCB's sexual offences analysis work and the implementation of the recommendations from the analysis have been noted as a national example of best practice by the Department of Education; this work will be promoted nationally by the department.
- The Safeguarding Toolkit and cuecards resource, continue to be adopted by other LSCB's nationally.
- Children and young people's participation in LSCB activity - Bracknell Forest was noted as one of three areas of best practice nationally in 2010 for the series of monologues on 'risky behaviour'. This has continued to develop from strength to strength, with young people developing peer-education resource on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people, entitled The Lobster.
- Conference - the LSCB's 2011 Annual Conference on the theme of 'Intervening early – domestic abuse, sexual offences and the link to child protection' was evaluated positively and was so heavily over-subscribed that despite 180 places being available for the day a further 80 professionals were on the waiting list. The Director of Stop it Now!, Donald Findlater and Julia Worms a regional expert in domestic abuse were guest speakers at the conference. A young people's drama resource on promoting positive relationships was well received by attendees and has subsequently been used as a peer education resource in schools, youth support settings and by specialist services. Workshops were held on subjects including the impact of sexual offences on young people as victims and perpetrators, working with sex offenders, the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people (informed by a child's perspective) and on adults (informed by an adult survivor of domestic abuse), chronic neglect, the impact of substance and alcohol abuse on children and national changes following Munro's Review.
- Bracknell Forest LSCB recruited a new Independent Chair in September 2011, who was brought clear vision and strategic leadership to the partnership and promoted the ongoing developing of effective safeguarding arrangements within the borough and a shared strategic vision.

Some of the challenges the LSCB faced during 2011/12 were:

- Resource – the LSCB remains concerned about the impact on reductions in resource due to public service budget reductions on the ability of the workforce to identify safeguarding concerns early and their opportunity to intervene effectively. In turn, monitoring the increased demand for child protection services, in the context of finite resources, remains an ongoing challenge for statutory services and the LSCB.
- Statutory guidance – in light of Eileen Munro's recommendations about changing the national approach to safeguarding children; changes to performance management and inspection frameworks; and in light of the early proposals for the revisions to the LSCB's statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children), the LSCB is continually striving to keep abreast of national changes; whilst also maintaining momentum around, and ensuring adequate oversight of, local need. The LSCB intends to provide specific comment on this impact of these changes in the 2012-13 Annual Report.
- Understanding the impact of national changes to the welfare and benefits systems on outcomes for children, with particular reference to child poverty and housing conditions. The LSCB continues to monitor these areas closely.

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- There has been significant change to the organisation and management of health economy services, some of which is in response to the Health and Social Care Act. Particular significant changes have included:
 - ◆ The expansion of Berkshire Healthcare foundation trust to include community health services (previously provided by BECHs);
 - ◆ The changes to PCT role and functions, in the context of the development of a pan-Berkshire function for the PCT and one Berkshire Designated Nurse for Child Protection, the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and shadow Health & Well-Being Boards.

In the context of the LSCB's 'ensuring effectiveness' function, the LSCB has made a range of strategic challenges to local and national partners, including:

- ❖ Working with partners to identify the impact of local issues on children and young people as they arise e.g. the use of Mephedrone and other illegal substances, the impact of national changes to the benefits system on homelessness and temporary accommodation for children.
- ❖ Raising concerns about, and seeking a resolution to, difficulties associated with the transfer of domestic abuse risk assessment information (i.e. DASH forms) to Children's Social Care following the development of Thames Valley Police referral hubs;
- ❖ Seeking consistent representation from Berkshire Primary Care Trust on the LSCB to enable the partnership to fulfil its statutory functions;
- ❖ Requesting more detailed information from MAPPA about the analysis of the potential risks posed by offenders to children and young people in the borough and the arrangements to address the risk.
- ❖ Recommending that the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) introduce a systematic method to review the implementation of learning or recommendations from child death analysis, and to ensure that the any learning associated with modifiable factors from child deaths is routinely reviewed;
- ❖ Informing the review of the effectiveness of safeguarding activity within specific sectors including the voluntary, community and faith sector; leisure and sports sector and early years sector;
- ❖ Seeking national changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage regulations, in response to the learning from the Serious Case Review.

8. FEEDBACK AND CHALLENGE TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD.

In summary the LSCB recommends the following actions to the Health & Well-Being Board and the Children and Young Peoples' Partnership:

Recommendations to the Health & Well-Being Board
1) To ensure that Clinical Commissioning Groups and other commissioned health providers adhere to Bracknell Forest LSCB's minimum safeguarding standards and have completed a satisfactory Section 11 self-assessment.

2) To ensure that the local Clinical Commissioning Group has oversight of the recommendations from the Serious Case Review relating to General Practice and Health providers and ensures that the learning from the review informs the performance monitoring and quality assurance systems for CCGs and General Practice.

3) To ensure that the Health & Well-Being Board and the local Clinical Commissioning Group has oversight of the recommendations from the 4 Case Review relating to General Practice, Health Visiting and Midwifery and ensures that the learning from the review informs the performance monitoring and quality assurance systems for CCGs.

4) That the Health & Well-Being Board considers the advice provided by community health professionals on co-sleeping or bed-sharing and promotes safe sleeping arrangements for infants and small children.

5) That the Health & Well-Being Board consider the potential application of the Exemplar Safeguarding Audit Tool to audit the child protection practice of health economy providers.

Recommendations to the CYP Partnership

1) To ensure that organisations commissioned by statutory partner agencies to provide services to children, young people or families adhere to Bracknell Forest LSCB's minimum safeguarding standards and have completed a satisfactory Section 11 self-assessment.

2) To ensure that the learning from the Serious Case Review informs the strategic priorities of the CYP Plan; and directly informs the development of the Early Intervention Hub and the continued development of 'Shared Processes' i.e. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) particularly.

3) To ensure that the learning from the 4 Case Review informs the strategic priorities of the CYP Plan; and directly informs the development of the Early Intervention Hub particularly.

4) That the CYP Partnership reviews the progress it has made with implementing the learning from QSCR analysis and considers how the findings could inform the development of the Early Intervention Hub.

Bracknell Forest LSCB will present this Annual Report to a range of strategic partnerships that have an interest in the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children within the borough. The LSCB will have a specific dialogue with the Health & Well-Being Board and CYP Partnership about the learning arising from the report; the LSCB will receive a report from both of these partnerships, summarising their response to the recommendations.

Annex 1

Children and Young People’s Partnership response to Bracknell Forest LSCB’s 2010-11 Annual Report Recommendations

Areas for consideration	Action Requested	Progress To Date
Section 11 development areas	To ensure that organisations that are commissioned to provide services to children, young people or families in the borough, have completed a satisfactory Section 11 self-assessment.	It has been agreed that any services that are commissioned will be required to demonstrate that they are compliant with the requirements of Section 11. There is a standard form of wording that has been agreed to include in any contracts / SLA’s that are agreed.
Shared Processes & Children’s Workforce Strategy	<p>The Shared Processes and Children’s Workforce Strategy subgroups are asked to note the development areas relating to:</p> <p>Information Sharing and Safer Workforce practice and ensure that appropriate support/resources are made available locally to the children’s workforce.</p>	<p>The Shared Processes Group has been subject to review by Overview and Scrutiny and by internal review. Within the workplan for the coming year there will be a revision to the Information Sharing Policy.</p> <p>Information sharing is covered in the CAF training programme, and an Information sharing cue Card is available as part of the Safeguarding Toolkit.</p> <p>The Safer Workforce training is under review to ensure the content remains fit for purpose. This includes some revisions to the LADO information.</p>
Child Death Overview Panel and IMR learning	<p>That the learning from the Child Death Overview Panel’s analysis is noted and is used to specifically inform Public Health priorities.</p> <p>That the learning from the IMRs is noted by the partnership and informs the CYP Partnership’s strategic priorities.</p>	<p>The issues from child deaths and IMR learning will be fed into the developing Health and Wellbeing Strategy in the coming year.</p> <p>Safeguarding remains one of the four outcome priorities in the Children and Young People’s Joint Strategic Plan and relevant actions are cascaded to the appropriate working groups to develop and deliver.</p>

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<p>Ensuring Effectiveness (Quality Standards)</p>	<p>That the CYP Partnership notes the common safeguarding priorities and specifically ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient child protection training is available to the workforce. • Promote the involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in service design and delivery. • Ensure that quality assurance in the partnership prioritise safeguarding. <p>That the CYP Partnership notes the risks associated with the impact of reductions in service on the capacity of staff and volunteers to identify child protection concerns early and intervene to protect/safeguard children.</p> <p>That the CYP Partnership’s preparation for inspection gives specific attention to the review of partnership safeguarding responsibilities.</p>	<p>The Workforce Strategy Group maintains an overview of the training provided to the workforce.</p> <p>Promoting involvement is a key area of activity across all areas of work, and will form a key strand of the developing monitoring and evaluation framework. All statutory mechanisms for involvement remain in place and under review for effectiveness.</p> <p>We are currently progressing a bid to seek additional resources for strengthening quality assurance functions, in particular those within Children’s Social Care, and across the Department.</p> <p>The CYP Partnership notes the concerns regarding reduced resources, and will keep the impact of this under review.</p> <p>The Inspection has now taken place and the CYP Partnership was well prepared and was able to demonstrate alongside the LSCB its commitment and adherence to safeguarding responsibilities.</p> <p>Work will now take place to consider the implications of the new Inspection Framework</p>
<p>Performance Management</p>	<p>That the CYP Partnership notes that the LSCB is specifically monitoring the following safeguarding related performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of Sexual Offences against under 18s - Number of under-18 deaths - Number of enquiries to Children’s Social Care - Number of children with child protection plans - Number of re-referrals to Children’s Social Care. 	<p>The CYP Partnership notes these indicators being monitored. It will track carefully the requirements of the newly revised indicators for Safeguarding expected later this year and will work with the LSCB to consider the best way in which to collect and monitor both national and local indicators.</p>

Annex 2 – Learning from the ‘4 Case Review’

This is a summary of the learning from the ‘4 Case Review’:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To continue to promote the ‘immobile children bruising protocol,’ and also to promote the ‘safe handling’ of babies (e.g. NSPCC All Babies Count campaign)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Community Health (i.e. Health Visiting and General Practice) and Acute Health (i.e. Midwifery) recording systems to be further developed to capture ‘other significant adults’ to children and to promote analysis of their capacity to parent or care for a child.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide further information and training to GPs on recording the appearance of injuries/bruising to children, recording parental explanation and a child’s presentation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To share best practice for children and young people Hospital Discharge policies across Berkshire and ensure the key features are captured in the Berkshire Child Protection Procedures.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Children’s Social Care to review their thresholds for conducting Initial Assessments when repeat incidents of domestic abuse arise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the LSCB strategically monitors and evaluates the needs of children under 5 years of age and analyses the journey of children under 5 with additional needs through universal to specialist services.

Annex 3 – Progress with the LSCB recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny

Recommendation	Progress
<p>'The Council's website should give clearer links to the role and activities of the LSCB and Children's Trust.'</p>	<p>The links to the LSCB website have been strengthened in the redesign of the Council's website, within the limitations of national compliance requirements.</p>
<p>'The LSCB should be asked to include 'real life' examples of good practice in their Safeguarding Toolkit.' 'The Council should continue to actively promote the Toolkit and support the voluntary sector in their take-up of it.'</p>	<p>Examples of good practice have been collated by the LSCB and once the Phase 3 analysis is complete, will be shared. LSCB support of individual voluntary, community and faith sector providers has increased significantly in 2011/12.</p>
<p>'The LSCB Safeguarding Cue Cards are an excellent idea and should remain freely available to all, and promoted at every opportunity.'</p>	<p>The LSCB has continued to make the safeguarding cuecards freely available to the workforce.</p>
<p>'The structure of the Children's Trust also the LSCB should be reviewed, in particular to determine whether it might be better to have the wider groups meeting less frequently with a smaller subset of each group operating in an executive capacity and meeting more frequently, with full accountability to the wider group.'</p>	<p>The LSCB structure was reviewed alongside the Children's Partnership (previously Children's Trust); sub-groups have been amended in response to this and two sub-groups are now shared between the CYP Partnership and LSCB i.e. Shared Processes and Workforce Strategy.</p>
<p>'The Panel should continue to receive and review the annual report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and in future this should include a discussion on the report with the Chair of the LSCB, in the Panel's public meeting.'</p>	<p>This has been built into the forward planner of the LSCB.</p>

Annex 4 – April 2011 to March 2012 LSCB Dataset - Exception Report

Children’s Social Care⁶

There has been a year-on-year decrease in the rate of **contacts** to Children’s Social Care with 2135.3 rate by the end of March 12 compared to 2144.5 the previous year (decrease of 25 contacts).

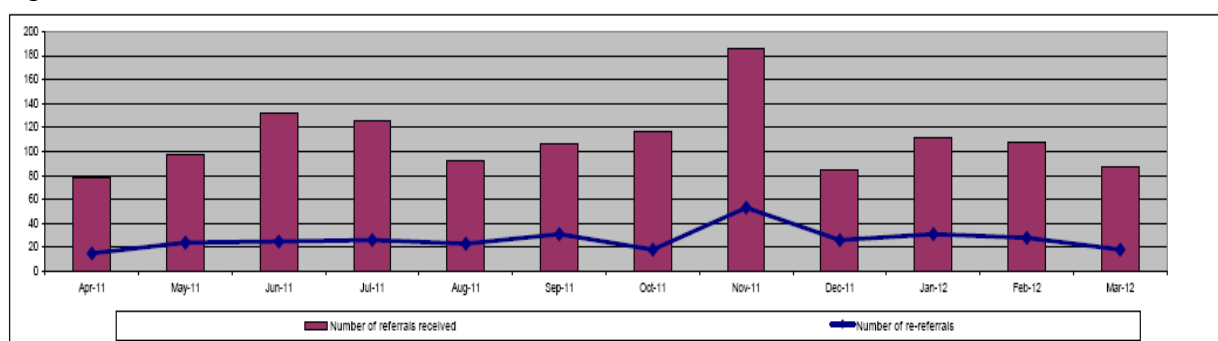
The number of children who became subject to a **Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time** increased from 9.2% in 2010/11 to 12.6% in 2011/12 (12 out of 95 children). Nationally in 2010-11 the percentage of children who were re-registered was 13.3%.

In 2011/12 there were four (4.4%) children that were subject to a **Child Protection Plan for two years or more**. This is a slight decrease from the previous year (5.6%), and nationally in 2010/11, 6% of children who had CPPs that were over two years were de-registered. At the end of March 2012, there were three children in Bracknell Forest that have been subject to a CPP for 2+ years all of whom are now in proceedings.

Across 2011/12 nearly three quarters (73%) of **referrals led to an initial assessment** compared to 71% in the previous year and 66% in the year prior (2009/10). Nationally in 2010/11, the number of initial assessments completed in the year as a percentage of all referrals in the year was 71.5%, up from 65.5% in 2009/10.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of Children’s Social Care referrals were **re-referred within a year** (2011/12). This equates to 300 re-referrals out of 1325 referrals and is a slightly higher percentage than the previous year (23%). Nationally in 2010/11, 26% of referrals were within 12 months of a previous referral. Children’s Social Care Service Managers are currently undertaking an audit of re-referrals and recommendations will be made, as appropriate, following analysis.

Fig 1: Referrals and re-referrals to Children’s Social Care

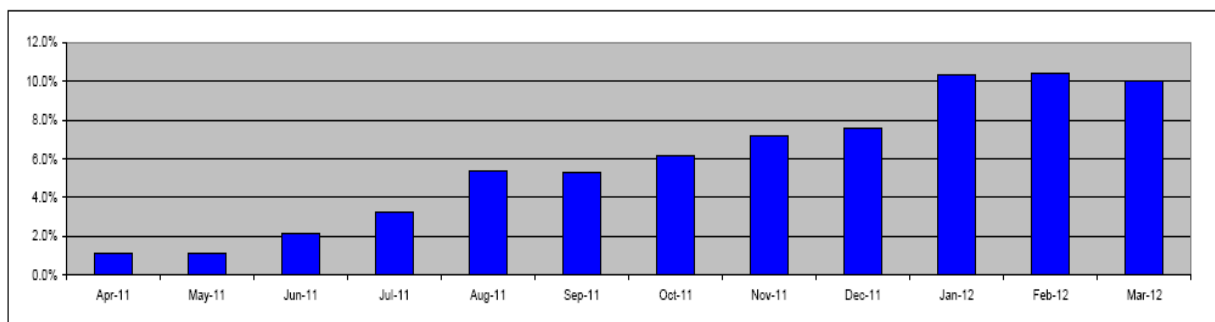


⁶ The figures for 2011-12 are provisional. Figures used in this report for 2010-11 have been validated and may have changed from the data reported in the 2010-11 dataset and exception report.

Safeguarding children together

The percentage of children looked after (LAC) who had three or more placements in 2011/12 has increased to 10% (10 children) compared to the previous year (8% - 7 children). Nine out of the ten LAC who had three or more placements were adolescents. Some changes were unavoidable, due to illness or changes in circumstances of the carer; four young people have complex needs and have proved difficult to settle and others were moving through transitional stages and making their own decisions to move on. The majority of these young people are now in settled placements.

Fig 2: Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements in 2011/12



Allegations against the children’s workforce

There were 47 **allegations** against the children's workforce in 2011/12 (compared to 37 the previous year) and one of those led to disciplinary action. There were none that led to criminal conviction but several police investigations were awaiting outcomes.

The process for managing allegations changed in September 2011 when the new LADO came into post. This records both consultations and allegations which proceed to a strategy discussion. The figures show an increase on the previous year which may indicate that awareness is being raised about managing allegations. A new audit form has been trialled since January 2012 to collect more detailed information about criminal or disciplinary action at each stage of the process and the final outcome of each allegation. This will be included in the LADO annual report.

Exclusions

The rate of permanent exclusions has increased in 2011/12 (0.17%⁷ compared to 0.14% the previous year).

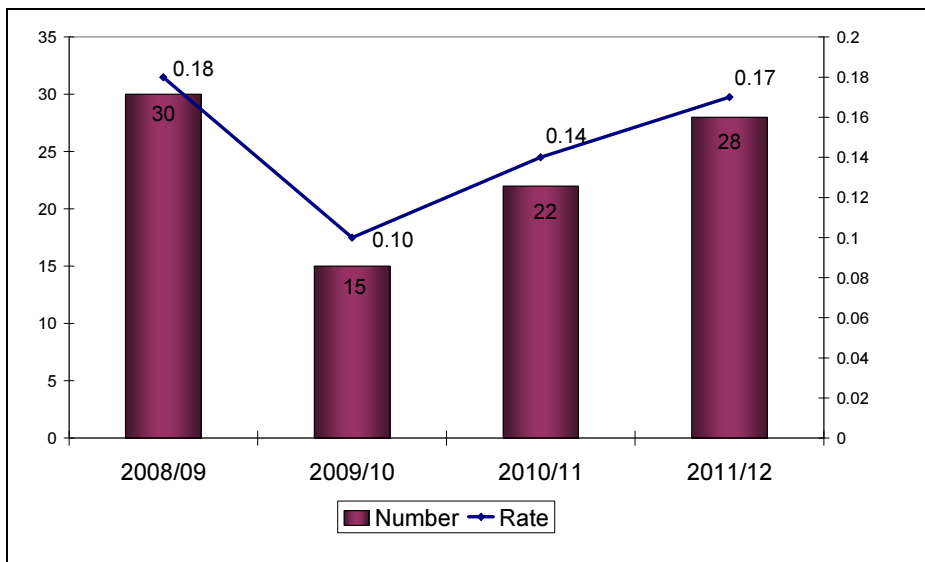
The Local Authority, in collaboration with headteachers, has set up a pilot project as an earlier preventative strategy to support vulnerable children and young people and reduce exclusion. The Fair Access process has also been developed to further support this.

⁷ This data is not validated.

Safeguarding children together

The Local Authority arranges education for all permanently excluded pupils and is working with schools to explore how best to meet the needs of pupils at risk of exclusion.

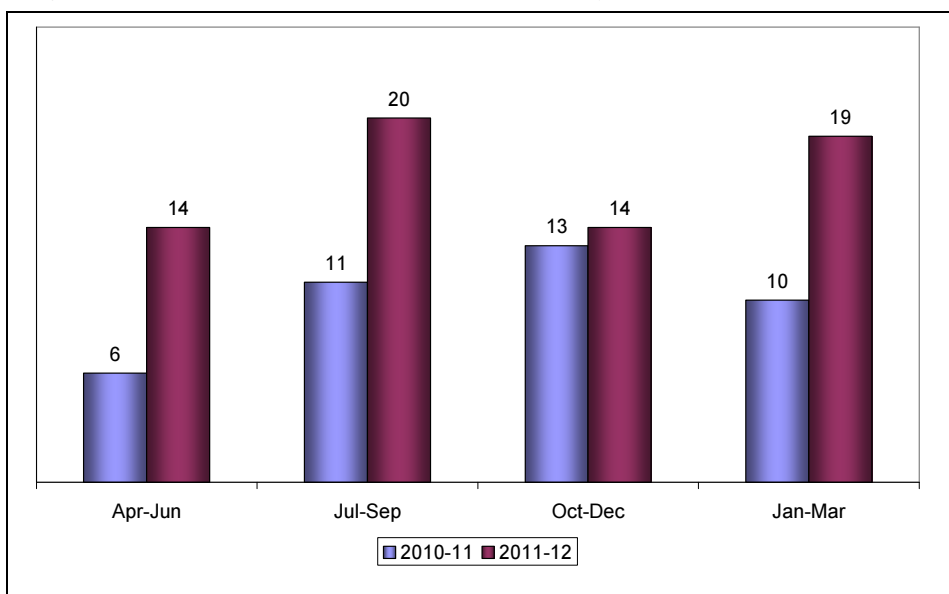
Fig 3: Permanent exclusions in Bracknell Forest 2008/09 to 2011/12



Youth Offending

The number of first time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system increased from 40 to 67 (68%) between 2010/11 and 2011/12. Since April 2011 following a Thames Valley Police restructure, the decision making process for FTE changed and no longer involves YOS. Since then the number of FTE to the Youth Justice System has been steadily increasing.

Fig 4: Number of FTE to the Youth Justice System in Bracknell Forest 2010-11 and 2011-12

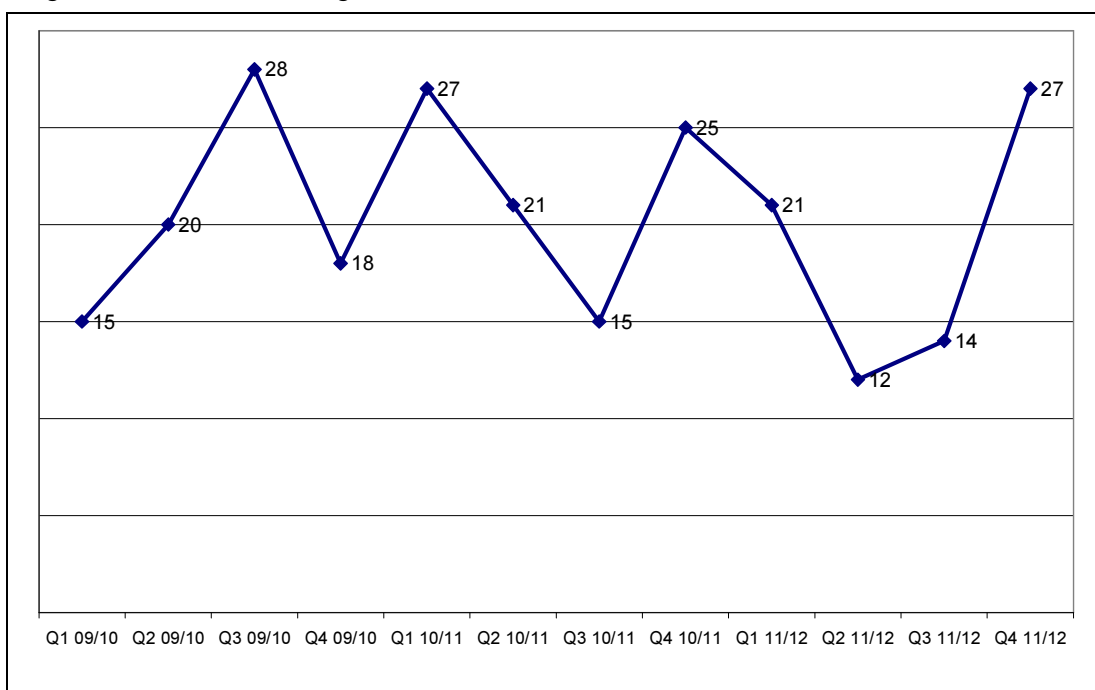


Sexual Offences

There has been a 16% reduction in the number of sexual offences (against those aged 17 and under) in 2011/12 compared to the previous year. However, quarter 4 has seen a marked increase from the previous two quarters.

An analysis by age shows that the proportion of younger victims has increased. In 2011/12 over a quarter (27%; n26) of victims were aged between 6 and 11 years old compared to 17% (n24) the previous year. There were also nearly double the amount of male victims with 20% (16) in 2011-12 and 10% (9) in 2010/11; the majority of this increase being 12 year olds (4 compared to 0).

Fig 5: Sexual offences against u18s in Bracknell Forest between 2009-10 and 2011-12



Drug and Alcohol Misuse

The number of young people choosing to take Mephedrone continues to be a concern. Between Oct to Jan 2012 there were 15 young people referred for treatment for this drug compared to 7 between Apr and Sep. Nearly a quarter (23%) were aged 14 or 15 years (and the remainder 16 or 17 years old). Mephedrone interventions are proving demanding and relapses are high. The cases are complex and there are increasing problems around mental and physical health and family relationships.

Emotional Health Needs

The number of under-18 admissions to hospital for emotional health needs has increased from 3 to 7 between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Homelessness

The number of statutory homeless children and young people continues to rise in Bracknell Forest. In Quarter 4 of 2011/12 there were 77 homeless children compared to 37 for the same quarter in the previous year. As previously reported, there has been an increase in homeless applications overall as a result of the economic climate and loss of tenancies as the main homeless reason.

Fig 6: Rate of statutory homeless children in Bracknell Forest from 2010 - 2012

