

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
12 JANUARY 2015**

**LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14
Independent Chair Local Safeguarding Children Board**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2013/14 regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice in Bracknell Forest is provided to the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel for information.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the report (attached as annex 1) and the key messages arising from it.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) provides the statutory framework for the safeguarding responsibilities of those working with children and young people, including the responsibilities of the LSCB. Working Together requires the LSCB Chair to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The annual report should cover the preceding financial year, and should be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Statutory regulation supporting the implementation of Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 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.

In addition Regulation 5¹ of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the following specific LSCB roles and functions that support the objectives set out below:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority.
- Communicating to persons and bodies in the area of the authority the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising the awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/90/regulation/5/made>

Unrestricted

- Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.
 - Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- 4.2 Regulation 6 provides for the inter-agency LSCB Child Death Review process, with Regulation 5 (3) providing for the LSCB to have discretion in respect of its engagement in any other activities *“that facilitates, or is conducive to, the achievement of its objectives”*.
- 4.3 The report summarises the main areas of activity in the last year, some areas to note are:
- Ongoing management oversight by Council Members and Senior Officers of the roles, responsibilities and key issues regarding safeguarding activity and impact. This includes the LSCB Independent Chair attending a meeting bi-annually with the Director Children, Young People and Learning, the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Learning and Chief Executive. The Leader of the Council also joins this meeting annually.
 - Agreement across the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities to take a lead on a specific sub group to ensure consistency and accountability for each area of work identified. Bracknell Forest LSCB has the Pan Berkshire lead for the Section 11 Sub Group.
 - The continued high level of participation from Bracknell Forest Council in relation to reviewing the progress made across all departments of the Council in implementing and reviewing the Section 11 safeguarding self assessments.
 - The continued efforts to engage and further develop safeguarding links with the Voluntary and Community Sector including running a series of lunchtime consultation events.
 - The completion of a Serious Case Review during 2013/14. The report cannot be published until criminal proceedings have concluded, however due to the approach taken to complete the review there has been good multi-agency participation and learning throughout the process.
 - The joint commissioning of a large survey of children and young people completed by the Children’s Society.
 - Ongoing work to raise awareness of the impact of Child Sexual Exploitation including an effective drama production called Chelsea’s Choice targeted at young people.
 - Completion of a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, and cohesion between the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Group and the Operational Group.
 - A successful conference on the subject of neglect which saw 200 professionals attending and had the Right Honourable Frank Fields as the key note speaker.
 - Continued delivery of a range of multi-agency safeguarding training which reported that 93% of participants felt had some impact on their professional practice.
 - The LSCB has overseen the development of the Continuum of Need document which sets out local arrangements for managing early help through to thresholds for Children's social care.
 - The LSCB has also developed the Learning and Improvement Framework which sets out how all partner organisations will contribute to and undertake learning to improve safeguarding practice.

- Progress noted against all areas of the targeted priorities of the LSCB Business Plan.

4.4 The report identifies targeted priorities for the new Business Plan for 2014- 2017 which in addition to the original priorities include two new priorities. The seven priorities for the coming three years are:

TP 1	To support further implementation of the framework for early help, and evaluate its impact on families
TP 2	Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children, young people and families
TP 3	Reduce the impact of substance and alcohol misuse on children, young people and families
TP 4	To further develop the co-ordination of protection and support to young people at risk of child sexual exploitation
TP 5	Develop a greater understanding of neglect and reduce the impact this has on children, young people and families
TP 6	Reduce the impact of parental mental illness on children and young people
TP 7	To increase the understanding of the harm associated with the misuse of technologies, it links with bullying and the further development of proactive strategies to support children / young people and their families

4.5 The report provides a range of key messages which are aimed at those responsible for key partnerships and strategic planning across all organisations working with children, young people and families. It is expected that these organisations will take on board the messages and ensure they are embedded within policy and practice where relevant and appropriate.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The LSCB does not work directly with children, young people and families. Its main function as a Board is to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding of partner agencies. Within these functions the LSCB would address any equalities issues that arose in the course of its activity.

6 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

6.1 This report provides an account of the LSCB activity in the past year. Within this account the report provides a list of key messages which are designed to provide partner agencies with some focus on areas of development which may help to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people in the future.

Contact for further information

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