

TO: EXECUTIVE

LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
Independent Chair Local Safeguarding Children Board

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The final draft of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2014/15 regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding and child protection practice in Bracknell Forest is provided to the Councils' Executive for information.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Executive 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 (updated March 2015) 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.
- Participating in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority.

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

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- 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.
 - Increased focus on the role of the LSCB in performance monitoring and seeking further information / action where concerns have been identified.
 - 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 positive developments in working with Involve and delivery of a number of workshops with the Voluntary and Community Sector.
 - The development of the Learning and Improvement Framework and focus on working with partners in reviewing cases where multi-agency learning was evident. The roll out of a series of learning events to ensure practitioners have been able to hear about the reviews and take away key messages for practice.
 - The high level of engagement with young people regarding CSE through an event led by the Youth Council, and engagement of partner agencies in a joint event which focused on CSE, learning from Serious Case Reviews where CSE was a key factor. The outcomes of both events fed into a review of the CSE Strategy.
 - Continued focus on CSE by working to develop a profile of CSE, and undertaking further multi-agency audits.
 - During 2014/15 over 1360 individuals attended safeguarding courses commissioned by the LSCB for staff and volunteers across the Borough and offered generic learning in respect of safeguarding children and specific courses.
 - The oversight of the LSCB on a wide range of activity underpinning safeguarding across the Council and with partners, including a number of presentations during the LSCB Forum on issues such as managing allegations against the workforce, Young Carers and the impact of the new Care Act.
 - 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.
- 4.6 The report identifies a number of key messages for partners and stakeholders for consideration. Those reading the report may wish to consider these messages and ensure they are addressed at the appropriate level.

Safer Workforce

Those providing services to children, young people and families, or those planning provision should:

- regularly assess workforce capacity and identify strategies to ensure their workforce is adequately equipped to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities
- ensure that there is an awareness of the requirements of safe recruitment and a clear understanding of the management of concerns/allegations against staff working with children
- provide professional development that addresses the need for inter-agency learning in addition to specific competences in respect of individual \ organisational responsibilities
- ensure that staff receive supervision that provides adequate support to ensure they carry out their duties within the challenging context of child protection

Information Sharing

Those providing services to children, young people and families, or those planning provision should ensure:

- that they have understood and endorsed the LSCB's Information Sharing Protocol staff and volunteers have understood the requirements of [Working Together](#) (HMGov, 2015) and [Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers](#) (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)
- staff challenge practice that does not reflect the above agreements/guidance and if necessary escalate such concerns using the processes established within the LSCB's [Inter-Agency Guidance](#) (http://berks.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_resolution_prof.html).

Assessment and analysis of risk

Those providing services to children, young people and families, or those planning provision should ensure:

- children/young people are seen and engaged in activities that verify their wellbeing in spite of assurances provided by others
- the needs and capabilities of parents/carers are informed by reliable information provided by all those involved with the family and wherever possible information gathered is validated using reliable sources of information
- where assessment takes place historical information informs professionals understanding of the accumulative impact of adversity and resulting trauma and should fully inform decision making

Strengthening Partnerships

Those providing services to children, young people and families, or those planning provision should ensure:

- *the ongoing commitment of sufficient resources to support delivery of the LSCB Business Plan and the core requirements as prescribed within statutory guidance*

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

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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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