

Brighton & Hove LSCB: Board Briefing

Summer 2018



Welcome to Brighton & Hove Local Children Safeguarding Board Briefing. The Board meeting was held on 11 June 2018.

We welcomed Detective Superintendent, Fiona McPherson who attending in place of Detective Superintendent Carwyn Hughes

Update from Leadership Group

The Leadership Group¹ last met on 14 May 2018 and this was the first joint meeting with the [Safeguarding Adults Board \(SAB\)](#). It is hoped this joint group will minimise any duplication for people who sit on both Boards and that this arrangement will be conducive to a more joined up approach across the Board's workplans, especially in areas where work streams merge.

Private Fostering Annual Report

A 'Privately Fostered' child is a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) who is cared for and lives with someone other than a parent or close relative for more than 28 days. Close Relatives are Step Parents, Grandparents, Siblings or Aunts/Uncles.

Tina James, Quality Assurance Programme Manager, joined us to present the Private Fostering annual report. She has been doing a fantastic job helping people to understand private fostering and we agreed to support her to raise more awareness with faith groups in the city. She told us there were fewer privately fostered children and that this is because a local language college have increased accommodation provision meaning less of their students are staying with host families. The Private Fostering Social Worker will continue to improve the number of visits to privately fostered children within expected timescales. Read more about Private Fostering [here](#)

Trauma

Local Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) have provided us with an opportunity to consider how well local services are set up to recognise and respond to children and adults who have suffered trauma. Trauma, particularly in early childhood, can have a severe impact on a child throughout their life. We agreed to commission a piece of work across both safeguarding boards which examines local trauma informed approaches, service provision and pathways. The LSCB Learning & Development Officer, with support from colleagues across the city, has been busy over the last few months developing specialist training to support practitioners to recognise trauma responses and to better understand resilience and post traumatic growth in themselves and the people they work with. Find out more and book your place [here](#)

Newcastle Sexual Exploitation Review

In February 2018 Newcastle LSCB and SAB published a joint review concerning the sexual exploitation of 700 victims, including children, in Newcastle between 2007-2015. We published a short [briefing](#) for practitioners to help them understand what the review found and to support their practice.

The review identified 33 recommendations for the NHS, Crown Prosecution Service and government, and another 15 for safeguarding boards. The learning from this review does not only apply to Newcastle. We know that the exploitation of children does happen in Brighton & Hove and in such instances we work closely with and support partners to make sure it is recognised and dealt with as an absolute priority. A working group, chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the SAB, will examine learning from this review to influence and shape local services

Feedback from Development Day

Board Members got together on 30 April 2018 to discuss the future of the Board in light of the imminent publication of new government legislation which replaces LSCBs with safeguarding arrangements led by the Local Authority, Police and CCG. The general consensus was that the Board functions effectively, but that a few tweaks could be made, particularly around the number of subcommittees. Members expressed a desire to better explore opportunities to work closely with the SAB and safeguarding boards across the county. The remit of all subcommittees will be reviewed over the coming months as the new safeguarding arrangements are decided. These will be published at the latest by September 2019.

¹ This group consists of the chairs of the Subcommittees and helps us co-ordinate the ongoing work to meet Business Plan objectives.

Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee Annual Report

The LSCB Business Manager presented the Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee annual report. The full report can be read [here](#).

Over the year the group have been looking at how agencies quality assure their own safeguarding practice and how they get and act on feedback from children and families about their services. During the year representatives from the National Probation Service, CAF/CASS, and the Children's SARC, have been invited to attend and present summary information from their single agencies to the group. Children's Social Care have presented the findings from a number of their audits on re-referrals, child sexual, pod workloads, and pathway plans for care leavers. Sussex Police had informed the group they would not be undertaking any specific child safeguarding audits. This was challenged by the LSCB Chair at today's meeting and Sussex Police will submit a report from their Strategy & Compliance team to provide assurance that the protection and promotion of the welfare of children remains a Force priority.

Two multi-agency audits were completed over this year. The first was on [Safeguarding Children with Disabilities](#) and the second on intra-familial child sexual abuse is described below.

The Board continue efforts to make sure that the safeguarding data we scrutinise comes from a multitude of agencies, not just social work, to allow us to better understand local need, and therefore where to focus our attention.

Multi-Agency Audit on Intra-familial Child Sexual Abuse

Dr Jamie Carter and Detective Inspector Lee Horner led a multi-agency audit which looked at how well local practice protects children where concerns have been raised that sexual abuse may be occurring within a family.

The overall judgements graded two cases good with outstanding features, one case good, two cases requiring improvement with good features, one case requiring improvement and one case inadequate. Proactive action was taken in case that was judged inadequate.

The findings included that:

- Strategy discussions were held in all cases. but not all relevant agencies attended these in five of the seven case audited. The audit showed us that professionals need to be much clearer about which health professionals need to be involved in strategy discussions and the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) must be included.
- The local [child sexual abuse pathway](#) was not followed in the majority of cases which meant the SARC was not involved when they should have been.
- There was good evidence that the voice of the child was heard.

A number of recommendations were made from this audit which are being overseen by our Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee. We are keeping a watchful eye on progress and a briefing to share the learning with front line staff will be circulated in September.

Safeguarding Data

The Board discussed data about child safeguarding.

- We have asked for more information about the number of pupils absent from school as this looks out of line with the national average. We will talk about this at September's meeting.
- The Behaviour and Attendance Partnership team are exploring reasons why many of Brighton's children are missing school.
- The number of children on Child Protection Plans for emotional abuse has fallen to 48%, but this is still higher than the national average of 37%.
- The number of children on plans for neglect has increased, suggesting that professionals are now recognising emotional abuse as a form of neglect in their recording.

There were 200 A&E Attendances for self-harm in 2016/17. This year attendance for self-harm has decreased but the admissions appear to have increased. We will explore this further at September's meeting.

Operation Encompass

We talked about Operation Encompass in last quarters Board Briefing (which you can read [here](#)) This is a project which aims to safeguard and support children and young people who are involved in or affected by incidents involving domestic abuse.

We agreed to roll this project out in Brighton & Hove before the end of the year. Next steps include working with all local schools to explain the project and garner their support. You can read the full paper presented to Board [here](#) and our [letter to headteachers](#).

Participation & Engagement – joint LSCB & SAB Strategy

Now that our Participation & Engagement Subcommittee is a joint group with the Safeguarding Adults Board, we have developed a [Joint LSCB & SAB Communication & Engagement Strategy for 2018–2021](#).

Both Boards have a responsibility to support the general public, as well as professionals, to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of residents in the city.

Over the summer, YMCA Right Here Youth Ambassadors will be taking forward a piece of work to deliver child friendly safeguarding messages which will include advice on what to do if anyone is concerned about themselves or a friend. They will also be de-mystifying the local thresholds and making them more easily understood for children and their families.

A briefing which sets out some practice principles to support effective safeguarding of children across different ethnic groups, religions and cultural background and communities is also in development.

Xanax

Between 24 February and 2 March at least six people needed to be hospitalized after taking Alprazolam (more commonly known as Xanax) recreationally. Alprazolam is an anti-anxiety medicine in the benzodiazepine family (benzos) and is similar to diazepam (Valium) but it's about 20 times stronger and can quickly make users feel very sleepy, clumsy and confused. If it's mixed with alcohol there's a real risk of overdose which can lead to death

Anna Gianfrancesco, Head of Safeguarding, reiterated again today concerns about the use of Xanax increasing. ruok? the city's children and young people's alcohol and drug service, are collating their data on young people's use. She asked all partners to record if it comes to their attention.

If you think a young person needs help or support due to their alcohol or drug use contact ruok? on 01273 296169 or ruokdb@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

More information about Xanax is available from the following websites: [The Drugs Wheel](#) & [Talk to Frank](#)

The minutes from all Board meetings are published on the [LSCB Website](#)
If you have any further questions about this meeting please contact us at
LSCB@Brighton-hove.gov.uk or on 01273 292379

