



**Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Safeguarding Children Board**

# **Annual Report 2012 – 2013 And Work Programme 2013 – 2014**

**Fourth draft – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS  
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

South West Shared Child Protection Procedures  
[www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)

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## **Introduction from the Independent Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board**

I am pleased to welcome you to the third annual report and work programme of the Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board.

The report outlines progress and developments over the last 12 months and sets out issues and challenges that member agencies of the Safeguarding Board and the Children's Trust Board will need to address over the next year. Progress continues to be made on implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection.

Challenges remain in ensuring that all agencies have in place the required level of supervision and training for all staff working with children and young people and that safeguarding remains the highest priority for all organisations at a time of significant change. It is essential that member agencies ensure that the LSCB has the capacity to perform the tasks of monitoring and evaluating practice, to challenge, to hold to account, to disseminate learning and to seek assurance that all possible is being done to keep children and young people safe.

There have been significant organisational and structural changes within partner agencies since the last report. This rate of change will continue into the forthcoming year as Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities come to an end and Clinical Commissioning Groups and the National Commissioning Board become established. Within the Local Authority the new Directorate of People and Communities has been developed with a combined Director of Children and Adult Services and the new structure will be operational from April 2013. In addition Public Health will move from Primary Care Trusts to being a Local Authority responsibility. Within the Police Service the development of the Public Protection Unit and the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner will bring changes.

In the specific area of Safeguarding Children, the final version of the new Working Together Guidance is expected in 2013 and the changes in organisational structure and personnel will mean changing membership of the LSCB, including the appointment of two Lay Members to the Board.

I would like to thank members of the LSCB for their commitment and support in ensuring that safeguarding is kept at the top of the agenda and in reinforcing the message that safeguarding is everybody's business.

**Jim Gould**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board**

**Annual Report compiled on behalf of Local Safeguarding Children Board**  
**Maurice Lindsay**  
**Divisional Director**  
**Children's Service**

# **Annual Report of Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board 2012-2013**

## **Introduction**

This Annual Report of Bath and North East Somerset's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) represents the third Annual Report written in accordance with the national guidelines for such reports. It builds upon the previous Annual Reports and Business Plans published by the Area Child Protection Committee and then the Local Safeguarding Children Board since 2000, and the Annual Report for 2011 – 2012. It has been compiled by the constituent members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and informed by stakeholders who were widely consulted. It represents a critical appraisal of the safeguarding arrangements and activities during 2012-2013; the key priorities for 2013-2014; and the Work Programme for delivering those priorities.

Draft versions of this Annual Report were presented to the Council's Early Years, Children and Youth Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Children's Trust Board. The previous Annual Reports informed the priorities and key actions within the Children and Young People's Plan 2011 – 2014, and the review of that plan in April 2012. This Annual Report will inform the review of the Plan which will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

This Annual Report will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and will be a public document. Progress with achieving its key priorities, and implementing its Work Programme, will be reviewed by the Business meetings of the Local Safeguarding Children Board: reported to the Children's Trust Board, the Partnership Board for Health and Wellbeing and the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel: and will be critically appraised within the Annual Report for 2013-2014.

## **1. Summary**

### **1.1 Key priorities for 2012 – 2013**

The key priorities for 2012 – 2013 were determined by the Board's considerations of the developing national safeguarding agenda, including the revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children; the Ofsted Inspection Framework for safeguarding children's services; the proposals for Multi-Inspectorate Inspections of safeguarding children services and arrangements: the Board's evaluations of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements based upon the Section 11 audits completed by member agencies: progress with the Boards Annual Report and Work Programme 2011-2012: its analysis of the local needs assessment: feedback from the annual Stakeholders' Event: its review of the national and local safeguarding context within the annual Development Day in February 2012: and, in particular, the findings and recommendations of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Bath and North East Somerset's Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services completed in

January 2012. Having done so, the Board concluded that whilst maintaining its overall commitment to the 5 aims of the Staying Safe Outcomes, it would continue in the coming year to give priority to its core business of protecting children and young people from violence, maltreatment, neglect and sexual exploitation.

In doing so, the Board decided that it would continue to take actions and coordinate activities and resources so that:-

- Children are protected from accidental injury and death – with the intended outcome that fewer children are involved in road traffic accidents and other accidents at home, play and employment.
- Children and young people feel safe from bullying and discrimination – with the intended outcome that children and young people report that they feel safer and incidents of bullying and discrimination are reduced.
- Children and young people feel safer from crime and antisocial behaviour in and out of school – with the intended outcome that fewer children and young people will be victims of crime and antisocial behaviour; there will be safer places to play and hang out; fewer children and young people commit crimes against children.
- Children and young people have security, stability and are cared for – with the intended outcome that the local agencies work together to promote policies and strategies to promote security and stability.
- There is an effective LSCB – with the intended outcome that the LSCB works effectively and efficiently as a Board, in its sub groups and lead groups and effectively influences other strategic partnerships to deliver the Staying Safe agenda.
- Staff and volunteers are provided with appropriate training and support – with the intended outcome of ensuring that all staff serving children in public, private, voluntary, faith and community sectors are sufficiently trained in safeguarding awareness to play their part in protecting children from the risk of significant harm.

In planning its Work Programme for 2012/13, the LSCB gave particular emphasis to its strategic and performance management roles, whilst also focusing upon key areas for development and ensuring the continuing provision of front line services to deliver the five aims of the staying safe outcome for children and young people. As a result, the Work Programme for 2012-13 made arrangements for achieving the following priorities:-

- Ensuring that the LSCB, the Council's Children's Social Care Service, and the Health agencies on the Board responded to the findings and recommendations for areas for improvement arising from the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspections of safeguarding services in Bath and North East Somerset and evidenced that the required improvements had been affected and sustained.

- Reviewing the governance arrangements for the LSCB to ensure robust challenge to and evidenced accountability of all member agencies in delivering the safeguarding agenda.
- Continuous workforce development and training to ensure that staff have the requisite skills and experience to intervene effectively to safeguard children, and are managed and supported to do so.
- Improved provision of the range of services for 11 – 18 year olds to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people.
- Improved practice and service delivery at the interface between Adult Mental Health Services and Children's Social Care Services to ensure that effective support Services are provided to parents and to children in need, with a clear focus on safeguarding children at all times.

The evaluation of the work undertaken during 2011 – 12 and the evidence arising from the needs analysis also highlighted the need for actions during 2012 – 2013 to:-

- Further improve the quality, and achieve consistency, in interventions, assessment, planning and interagency working to safeguard children and young people.
- Ensure a focus upon the child's journey through safeguarding services and the provision of help and support at the right time.
- Progress workforce development and training to ensure that staff have the requisite skills and experience to intervene effectively to safeguard children and promote their safe and appropriate care.
- Focus on the recruitment, retention and continuous development of front line staff and first line managers in Children's Social Care, Health and Police – with a focus upon staff supervision skills and reflective practice.
- Engage the wider community in safeguarding children.
- Increase the reporting and assessment of children in private fostering arrangements.
- Utilize the combined resources of the LSCB member agencies to underpin preventative strategies and services in challenging budgetary conditions.
- Maintain the active engagement of schools and GPs in safeguarding children – including Academies and the GP consortia.
- Raise the profile of the LSCB and its safeguarding agenda through effective communication and media strategies.
- Ensure that the potential impact on safeguarding and outcomes for children arising from service changes due to challenging budgetary conditions are overviewed by the LSCB, and that agencies share information and cooperate to minimise the short and long term impact of changes in safeguarding children.
- Ensuring that there is a clear focus upon safeguarding children during times of significant organisational change for many constituent members of the LSCB
- Further improve practice and service delivery at the interface between Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health Services

to ensure that effective support services are being provided to parents and to children in need – and ensuring that there is a clear and sharp focus on safeguarding children at all times.

- Ensure that messages from the Child Death Review process informs local practice and service development.
- Implementing recommendations and actions arising from the Munro Review of Child Protection
- Reviewing the impact of the re-design of Children's Social Care Services upon safeguarding arrangements and outcomes.

These were incorporated into the Work Programme for 2012 – 13.

During the course of 2012 – 2013 the Board has also given attention to national and local developments as follows:-

- The implications of changes in the national safeguarding context resulting from new government policy, direction and guidance.
- The introduction of new Inspection Framework and future Multi-Inspectorate Inspection Framework
- The review of the Council's Children's Social Care Services and proposals for the future design of that Service.
- The establishment of the Council's People and Communities Department
- The review of Avon and Somerset Police Public Protection arrangements.
- The establishment of the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- The implications of budgetary changes and pressures for the safeguarding agency.
- The Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspections of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in January 2012.

## **1.2 Key areas of progress/achievements during 2012 – 2013**

- The effective implementation of the Council's Children's Service and Health agencies Improvement Plans to achieve and evidence both immediate and sustained improvements in services for safeguarding and looked after children.
- The Year of the Father work initiated from the LSCB Stakeholders' Event 2011 which has significantly raised the profile of fathers in safeguarding and caring for children, and improve practice in engaging and working with fathers. This has received local and regional attention and recognition.
- Work has been progressed to ensure effective working arrangements across Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health Services to ensure the coordination of support to parents and protection to children.
- The re-design of the Council's Children's Social Care Service and the investment of additional capacity in front of house services. This has included the development of a Senior Practitioner post to work at the interface between Services and the establishment of

multi-agency interface meetings to ensure that appropriate services are provided to children and young people in need.

- Effective Multi-Agency Services are in place to provide early intervention for vulnerable children and young people and prevent the need for statutory interventions – evidence by the comparatively low number of children with protection plans. These Services are well established for 0 – 11 year olds and during 2012/13 priority has been given to developing the range of services for 11 – 18 year olds.
- The continuing development of the Family Intervention Project and the continuing provision of the Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities programme. This is on target to deliver 7 programmes during the financial year 2012-2013. The programme continues to be well received and attended with consistently good feedback from parents.
- The continuing development of the Family Intervention Project. An interim evaluation was completed in April 2012 and good outcomes are developing around preventing offending and re-offending, reducing housing related anti-social behaviour and improving school attendance. The Family Intervention Project is well placed to be a platform for the Local Authority to develop the Connecting Families programme in response to the Governments Troubled Families initiative.
- The active participation of the Local Voluntary and Community Sector in the work of the LSCB.
- The promotion and delivery of the AvonSafe Strategy to reduce the number of children at risk of accidental injury and death.
- The promotion and implementation of the Anti-Bullying and Discrimination Strategy.
- The promotion and delivery of the E-Safety Strategy and associated action plans.
- The stability of placements for children and young people in care remains strong.
- Actions have been taken to promote the provision of appropriate support and accommodation options for young people leaving custody.
- Actions have been taken to ensure the prompt identification and provision of support to young people who may have run away from home or are missing from care.
- The implementation of Safer Recruitment Policies across all agencies.
- The provision, and evaluation, of the programme of inter-agency training for staff – and support to single agency training.
- The provision of safeguarding advice and support to Schools through well-established child protection forums.
- Effective Child Death Review arrangements are in operation – for Rapid Response and Child Death Overview Panel. Evaluation of arrangements completed and reported to the LSCB.
- LSCB has continued to influence other strategic partnerships (e.g. Responsible Authorities Group) to deliver the safeguarding agenda.



- The LSCB has reviewed the roles and responsibilities of its sub groups and established a standing Serious Case Review Panel. The LSCB has progressed work with the Local Safeguarding Adult's Board to ensure shared learning from Serious Case Reviews and Inspections and to establish joint use of resources and capacity whenever appropriate.
- The LSCB played a lead role in presenting a Suicide Prevention Conference for local practitioners and agencies, and contributed to the refresh of Bath and North East Somerset's Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- Funding has been delegated to three Behaviour and Attendance Panels and two Engagement Workers have been employed to further enhance schools' joint working with agencies and the use of common assessment framework.
- Within the Anti-Bullying Strategy a work plan has been developed through the Stonewall Champions programme to ensure the provision of support to young people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, or who are questioning their sexuality.
- The reorganisation of the Police Public Protection Unit and the establishment of the Safeguarding Co-ordination Units have created a more systematic and robust approach to child safeguarding referrals. The Safeguarding Co-ordination Units also represent the first significant steps on the path to achieving co-located multi-agency safeguarding unit. A project is underway to make this aspiration a reality.
- Sirona Care and Health continues to deliver children's health services throughout Bath and North East Somerset with a high compliance of safeguarding children policy and practice. In addition, close alignment with the organisations safeguarding adults services gives join up and consistency for vulnerable families and sound transition between children's and adults services.
- The strengthening of the health visiting service as an Early Implementer Site for the new Health Visitor Implementation Plan, which has already seen an increase in staff numbers by 10%. The focus of the new approach is prevention and early intervention with focus on pregnancy and the first months of life. Smaller caseloads, structured earlier assessment, and quality staff training will help ensure that families have a positive start and work in partnership with others to prevent complex problems arising.
- The implementation of the Family Nurse Partnership, a national safeguarding children programme with proven outcomes in reducing child abuse, neglect, accident prevention, non-accidental injury and domestic violence. Sirona will be providing the service to teenage parents from January 2013 with support from the national team.
- The establishment of a new team within Sirona Care and Health to provide the children looked after health services.

**More to follow**  
**All LSCB members**

### 1.3 Challenges and issues for the Children's Trust Board

- Resourcing the LSCB (particularly in terms of staff time) to carry out its functions at Board level and through its sub groups.
- Ensuring the active participation and contributions of all member agencies – to the work of the LSCB and in championing the safeguarding agenda within their agency.
- Ensuring that all LSCB agencies undertake robust section 11 audits of their duties to safeguard children and implement any identified actions arising from these.
- Ensuring that the LSCB has the capacity and can exercise sufficient influence to ensure all member agencies are held to account in terms of their respective safeguarding duties and activities.
- Ensuring that actions taken by the LSCB and individual member agencies to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people, result in sustained improvements.
- Ensuring the active participation of the Clinical Commissioning Group and Academies in the work of the LSCB
- Ensuring that there are always clear safeguarding leadership and safeguarding arrangements as organisations go through significant change.
- Ensuring that a clear focus is maintained upon the safeguarding of children during periods of such organisational change within and across partner agencies – and that such change does not result in a fragmentation of services.
- Ensuring the provision of effective multi-agency and single agency training.
- Ensuring that all staff working in safeguarding have access to reflective, constructive supervision and consultation.
- Ensuring that all agencies commissioning services establish robust arrangements to ensure that providers are meeting their safeguarding duties.
- Ensure that the Board is well placed to accommodate the process and policy changes that result from the sweeping changes to the Working Together Document.
- Ensure that arrangements are in place for the accurate identification of incidents of child exploitation (sexual and otherwise) across the Bath and North East Somerset area and robust scrutiny of agency responses to such concerns.
- Ensure that schools collaborate to provide services for children and young people out of schools to minimise any safeguarding concerns.

#### **MORE TO FOLLOW – ALL LSCB MEMBERS**

## 2. Governance and Accountability arrangements

The Local Safeguarding Children Board is accountable to the designated Director of Children's Service within the Council's People and Communities Department, and the Lead Member for Children's Services, who have a

particular focus on how the Local Authority is fulfilling its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board prepares reports on the effectiveness of the arrangements for the LSCB in Bath and North East Somerset to the Lead Member; the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board. Further, the LSCB's own activities are part of the Children and Young People's Plan and this enables its work to be scrutinised by the Local Authority, by other local partners and other key stakeholders.

The LSCB has a clear and distinct identity within Bath and North East Somerset Children's Trust Board. The Chair of the LSCB is a member of the Children's Trust Board, and holds that Board to account for ensuring that safeguarding is central to all its activities. The dual accountability for safeguarding is detailed in the Children's Trust Board Terms of Reference. In September 2010 the LSCB and Children's Trust Board strengthened these arrangements by signing up to a joint agreement for working together. This agreement has been reviewed and updated in June 2012. Work has been progressed to confirm a working agreement between the LSCB and the Health and Well-being Partnership Board.

The LSCB has previously completed an evaluation of its governance arrangements against the standards detailed in the Department for Children School and Families (DCSF) Challenge and Improvement Tool, and has undertaken a further review in 2011. During 2012 the LSCB completed a review of its governance arrangements to ensure that there are robust and contribute to effective safeguarding arrangements in Bath and North East Somerset.

The inspection framework has also played an important role in reinforcing the on-going monitoring of the work of the LSCB. In recent years these have been based upon 3 yearly inspections of Safeguarding Services and annual unannounced inspections of the Council's Children's Service Contact, Referral and Assessment Services. Following the recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection the Government considered changes to these arrangements, and a new inspection was introduced from April 2012. An inspection under the previous framework was completed in Bath and North East Somerset in January 2012. A Multi-Inspectorate Inspection Framework will be introduced from May 2013.

Whilst the LSCB plays the key role in co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services. The LSCB does not have a power to direct other organisations but will advise the Local Authority and Board partners on ways to improve. When there are concerns about the work of partners and these cannot be addressed locally, the Chair of the LSCB will report these to the most senior individual in the partner organisation, to the relevant Inspectorate, and, if necessary, to the relevant Government department.

During 2012-2013 the LSCB has introduced a risk register which is reviewed at each business meeting. Major potential risks identified in the Register were

Failure to share appropriate information

Statutory requirement to undertake Serious Case Reviews not met

Lessons from Management Reviews and SCRs not implemented

Inadequate performance data or failure to interrogate and interpret or audit data to a sufficient level

Failure of member agencies to adequately resource LSCB and sub-groups

Insufficient resourcing and engagement with LSCB training programme

Failure to carry out single agency training to a sufficient standard

Membership of the LSCB and sub-groups not including necessary partners

LSCB not adequately addressing the issues of equality and diversity in policies, procedures, training and information or challenging member agencies sufficiently to be considering this aspect in regard to safeguarding provision

Agencies failing to deliver aspects of the outcome improvement plans drawn up as a result of the Ofsted/CQC inspection

A 'RAG' rating (red/amber/green) is applied to the register and a number of extra mitigating factors have been created through the year.

## **2.1 Local Safeguarding Children Board Meetings**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board meets in March, June, September and December. The Board is chaired by an interim Independent person. The Board has held a Stakeholders Forum and a Development Day during 2012-13 to review the Work Programme and effectiveness of the LSCB and contribute to this Annual Report.

During 2012 – 2013, the LSCB has undertaken a review of all its arrangements for the Board and its sub groups – to ensure that these not only operate effectively but also achieve the active participation of all members – this has resulted in proposals for a formal induction process for all LSCB members and the establishment of a Policy, Performance and Mentoring sub group: Learning and Professional Practice sub-group: Training and Development sub group: and a Standing Serious Case Review sub group.

Terms of reference have been drawn up for the sub-groups and chairs have been nominated and the sub-groups will be operational from April 2013. The sub-group chairs will meet quarterly with the LSCB Independent Chair and will draw up an annual work programme which will reflect the LSCB work programme. The sub-groups will submit a report to each LSCB meeting outlining progress against their plan and key points.

Nominated Chairs of the sub-groups are:-

Policy, Performance and Monitoring – Mike Bowden

Professional Practice – Duncan Stanway

Training and Development – Sophia Swatton

Serious Case Review – Nicola Bennett

Lead Groups have been maintained for each of the aims of the staying safe outcome and they report to the LSCB as follows:

- The Learning and Professional Practice sub-group
- Avonsafe
- The Anti-bullying Group
- The Youth Offending Team Management Board
- The Children in Care Quality Assurance and Strategy Group

## **2.2 Membership of the LSCB**

The core members of the LSCB are those who are designated as statutory members under S.13(3) of the Children Act 2004. Further, a national voluntary organisation with experience in this work (Barnardos) is represented, and a designated doctor and designated nurse provide appropriate expertise and advice to the Board. Representatives from Primary Schools, Secondary, Special Schools and Colleges, Adult and Children's Health Services providers, Adult Safeguarding Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the Voluntary Sector Network, the Maternity Service and the Clinical Commissioning group are also core members. Actions have been taken to engage Academies. The Council's Lead Member for Children joined the Board in March 2012 as a participating observer, and Lay Members will be recruited to support stronger public engagement and contribute to improved understanding of the LSCB's work.

Associate members have been established and ensure robust links with key stakeholders. The LSCB takes actions to secure the involvement in its work of Faith groups, Independent Schools, Further Education Colleges, Children's Centres, GP's, Independent Health Care Organisations, Social Enterprises, Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Strategic Partnership (IVASP), the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements, Housing, Culture and Leisure Services, Housing Providers, Drug Action Team, and representatives of children, young people and parents via existing networks and forums, including the Annual Stakeholders Forum.

All core members are nominated in writing by the Chief Officer of their organisation or the Chair of their partnership/representative body. The Chief Officer/Chair is asked to ensure that their nominated member has the requisite skills, expertise and capacity to carry out their roles and responsibilities as core members of the Board.

All core members and associate members of the LSCB have been provided with a written statement of their roles and responsibilities and their organisation has confirmed that they are able to:

- Speak for their organisation with authority
- Commit their organisation on policy and practice matters
- Hold their organisation to account (in matters of safeguarding children).

For 2012 – 2013 the attendance record of core member agencies at the business meetings is as follows:-

**To follow: Action: M Lindsay**

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## 2.3 LSCB Personnel

### Core Members 2012 – 2013

|                             |                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jim Gould                   | Independent Chair                                                                                             |
| Ashley Ayre                 | Director of Children's Service                                                                                |
| Ian Tucker                  | Strategic Health Authority                                                                                    |
| Tracey Iles                 | Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS Trust                                                      |
| Jenny Theed                 | Divisional Director: Children, Learning Disabilities, Professional Leadership and Quality                     |
| Beverley Boyd               | Assistant Divisional Manager for Specialty Division/Named Nurse Royal United Hospital                         |
| Liz Price                   | Commissioning Strategy Manager, Children Services                                                             |
| Peter Brandt                | Assistant Chief Officer, Avon and Somerset Probation Trust                                                    |
| Mark Dean                   | Assistant Director for Public Protection and Safeguarding, Avon Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust |
| Geoff Wessell               | Head of Public Protection Unit, Avon and Somerset Police,                                                     |
| Maurice Lindsay             | Divisional Director for Children's Service                                                                    |
| Nicola Bennett              | Integrated Safeguarding Officer                                                                               |
| Sally Churchyard            | Service Manager, Youth Offending Team                                                                         |
| Simon Lenton                | Designated Doctor, NHS B&NES/Wiltshire Cluster PCT                                                            |
| Duncan Stanway              | Assistant Director, Barnardos                                                                                 |
| Sue East                    | Head Teachers: representatives for B&NES Primary                                                              |
| Erica Draisey               | Head Teachers and Secondary Head Teachers                                                                     |
| Tony Parker                 | Divisional Director, Children Services                                                                        |
| Kevin Gibbs/Jeanette Jarvie | Service Manager, CAF/CASS                                                                                     |
| Yvonne Taylor/              | CAMHS – Divisional Director for Children and Families                                                         |
| Donna Clarke                | Services Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust                                                                   |
| TBC                         | Clinical Commissioning Group                                                                                  |
| Karen Littlewood            | Designated Nurse NHS BANES/Wiltshire Cluster Primary Care Trust                                               |
| Sophia Swatton              | Deputy Designated Nurse NHS BANES/Wiltshire Cluster Primary Care Trust                                        |
| Vicky Tinsley               | Directorate Lead, Maternity Service, RUH                                                                      |

### Associate Members

|                  |                                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geoff Spicer     | Representing Community Safety and Drugs Partnership           |
| Graham Sabourn   | Housing & Supported Living Services                           |
| Garry Carr-Smith | Fire & Rescue Service                                         |
| Mike MacCallam   | Adult Social Care Services                                    |
| Shirley Ward     | Adult Disability Services and Safeguarding Adults Coordinator |

### Lead Member Children Services

Cllr Nathan Hartley till June 2012  
Cllr Dine Romero since June 2012

## **2.4 Safeguarding Children Sub Committee Personnel**

### **Members 2012-13**

|                           |                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Duncan Stanway            | Barnardo's (Chair)                                                                                    |
| Nicola Bennett            | Integrated Safeguarding Officer, Bath and North East Somerset                                         |
| Clive Diaz                | Quality Assurance and Service Improvement Manager, Bath and North East Somerset                       |
| Jill Chart                | Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust                         |
| Fiona Finlay              | Consultant Community Paediatrician, Bath and North East Somerset/Wiltshire Cluster Primary Care Trust |
| Trina Shane               | Assessment and Family Service Manager, Bath and North East Somerset                                   |
| Jon Peyton                | Public Protection Safeguarding Manager, Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health NHS Care Trust               |
| Matt Iddon                | Detective Inspector, Bath and North East Somerset District, Avon and Somerset Police                  |
| Nigel Harrison            | Inclusion Manager – Special Educational Needs Support Services                                        |
| Susie Moray/Jean Williams | Administrative support to the Sub Committee                                                           |
| Sam Shrubsole             | CAMHS, Oxford Health                                                                                  |
| Caroline Dowson           | Integrated Service Manager, Early Years Services                                                      |

## **2.5 Training Management Committee Personnel**

### **Members 2012-2013**

|                |                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nicola Bennett | Integrated Safeguarding Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Children's Service (Chair)              |
| Trina Shane    | Assessment and Family Service Manager, Children's Service                                             |
| Nick Quine     | Bath and North East Somerset District, Avon and Somerset Police                                       |
| Beverley Boyd  | Royal United Hospital                                                                                 |
| Jill Chart     | Named Nurse Safeguarding, Bath and North East Somerset, PCT                                           |
| Jenny Dixon    | Early Years' Service                                                                                  |
| Chris Wilford  | Youth Offending Team                                                                                  |
| Fiona Finlay   | Consultant Community Paediatrician, Bath and North East Somerset/Wiltshire Cluster Primary Care Trust |
| Paula Bromley  | Principal Youth Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council                                         |
| Simon Ratcliff | Training and Development Manager, Bath and North East Somerset Council Children's Service             |

Terms of reference have been drawn up for the sub-groups and chairs have been nominated and the sub-groups will be operational from April 2013. The



sub-group chairs will meet quarterly with the LSCB Independent Chair and will draw up an annual work programme which will reflect the LSCB work programme. The sub-groups will submit a report to each LSCB meeting outlining progress against their plan and key points.

Nominated Chairs of the sub-groups are:-  
Policy, Performance and Monitoring – Mike Bowden  
Professional Practice – Duncan Stanway  
Training and Development – Sophia Swatton  
Serious Case Review – Nicola Bennett

**ALSO ADD – Membership of Policy, Performance and Monitoring sub group, Learning and Professional Practice sub group, Standing Serious Case Review sub group**

**ACTION – JIM GOULD/SARAH MCCLUSKEY**

### **3. Risk principles for child protection work**

The LSCB has considered the risk principles for child protection work detailed in the Munro Review Final Report: A Child Centred System. The LSCB will take into account the national debate about these principles and any subsequent revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children, but resolved to sign up to these principles and to carry out further work to determine how they will be applied locally.

The risk principles are as follows:-

#### **Principle 1:**

The willingness to make decisions in conditions of uncertainty (i.e. risk taking) is a core professional requirement for all those working in child protection.

#### **Principle 2:**

Maintaining or achieving the safety, security and wellbeing of individuals and communities is a primary consideration in risk decision making.

#### **Principle 3:**

Risk taking involves judgement and balance, with decision makers required to consider the value and likelihood of the possible benefits of a particular decision against the seriousness and likelihood of the possible harms.

#### **Principle 4:**

Harm cannot be totally prevented. Risk decisions should, therefore, be judged by the quality of the decision making, not the outcome.

#### **Principle 5:**

Taking risk decisions, and reviewing others' risk decision making, is difficult so account should be taken of whether they involve dilemmas, emergencies, or are part of a sequence of decisions or might appropriately be taken by other agencies. If the decision is shared, then the risk is shared too, and the risk of error reduced.

**Principle 6:**

The standard expected and required of those working in child protection is that their risk decisions should be consistent with those that would have been made in the same circumstances by professionals of similar specialism or experience.

**Principle 7:**

Whether to record a decision is a risk decision in itself which should, to a large extent, be left to professional judgement. The decision whether or not to make a record, however, and the extent of that record, should be made after considering the likelihood of harm occurring and its seriousness.

**Principle 8:**

To reduce risk aversion and improved decision making, child protection needs a culture that learns from successes as well as failures. Good risk taking should be identified, celebrated and shared in a regular review of significant events.

**Principle 9:**

Since good risk taking depends on good quality information, those working in child protection should work with partner agencies and others to share relevant information about people who pose a risk of harm to others or people who are vulnerable to the risk of being harmed.

**Principle 10:**

Those working in child protection who make decisions consistent with these principles should receive the encouragement, approval and support of their organisation.

#### **4. Principles for supervision arrangements in all agencies**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board's core principle for safeguarding Children Services in Bath and North East Somerset is that they are based on the use of professional judgement within the framework of agreed guidance and procedures.

This is underpinned by the quality of consultation and supervision to staff working in safeguarding children services. Each member agency has detailed and shared their supervision practice and policy arrangements. From this, the previous Area Child Protection Committee compiled a statement of core principles for supervision arrangements in safeguarding children work which each agency signed up to and determined how to implement within their agency. This statement was adopted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and each member agency.

The core principles are:-

- Supervision is a meeting that provides staff with the opportunity to reflect upon their work and decision making.

- Each agency will have a written policy for supervision of staff working in safeguarding children that is known to, and used by, all staff.
- All staff should have access to appropriate advice and support to deal with any immediate safeguarding children issues.
- All staff will receive regular supervision from their manager to develop their skills and ensure high standards of service delivery.
- A formal record of supervision sessions should be made for each party.
- Supervision will include a focus on the inter-agency aspects of safeguarding children work.
- Supervision will be used to identify development and training needs.
- Agencies will (annually) review the implementation and effectiveness of their supervision arrangements and practice.

The implementation of supervision arrangements was audited and reviewed in 2009, 2011, and 2012.

## **5. Budget 2012 – 2013**

### **1. Local Safeguarding Children Board – Main Programme**

#### **Sources of Funds**

**Budget 2012-13  
(£)**

**2. Local Safeguarding Children Board – Inter-agency Training**

**Sources of Funds**

**Budget 2012-13  
(£)**

DRAFT

## **6. Monitoring and Evaluation/Quality Assurance activity**

**6.1** Within the local arrangements for the National Performance Indicators across the Every Child Matters outcomes, the LSCB has lead responsibility for the following Staying Safe Performance Indicators. Within these, priority is given to the audit and reporting of:-

- Referrals to Children's Social Care going onto an initial assessment.
- Initial assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within 10 working days of referral (previously 7 working days).
- Core assessments for Children's Social Care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement.
- Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more.
- Children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.
- Child Protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales.
- Looked After Children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.
- Stability of Care Placements for Looked After Children: number of moves (percentage of children looked after with 3 or more placement during the year).

The Board has also started to receive reports in respect of locally identified performance indicators – for example, percentage of children seen by social worker within 5 working days of referral: percentage of closed social care case resulting in repeat referrals within 6 months: percentage of initial assessments completed within 15 working days: percentage of core assessments completed within 45 working days. Work is also being progressed with the Council's Children's Service to report on more qualitative outcomes – for example, percentage of children reporting that Children's Social Care Services made a positive difference: percentage of parents reporting that Children's Social Care Services made a positive difference to their parenting and made their child safer.

Performance in respect of these indicators was examined by the Board at each of its Business meetings and actions determined as required. Performance in respect of these indicators was also reported to the Council's Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

**6.1.1** Annual Performance reports were also presented to the LSCB in respect of:-

- People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (includes young people aged 16 – 18).
- Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (0 – 15 year olds).

- Timeliness of placements of children for adoption (following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption).
- Stability of care placements of looked after children: length of placements.
- Children who have experience bullying.
- Hospital admissions cause by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people.
- Children who have run away from home/care overnight.

6.1.2 During the course of 2011 – 2012 the LSCB started to consider a wider range of indicators of the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements including number of CAF assessments completed: referrals to Children's Social Care: number of children with child in need plans: number of children with protection plans: number of children in care: domestic violence incidents: violent crimes committed against children and young people: emergency admissions to hospitals following accidents: families living in temporary accommodation: staff vacancy rates and turnover rates: staff access to training: Ofsted inspection information – and the Board has continued to receive and refine these reports and progressed work to consider how they can be used to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.

6.1.3 Within 2012-13, the LSCB gave priority to auditing:-

- The improvements achieved by the Council's Children's Service and Health agencies following the implementation of their respective Improvement Plans in response to the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services in January 2012.
- The reasons for some Child Protection Plans exceeding 2 years in duration.
- Through work undertaken by the Council's Children's Service, how well historic and family information is used to inform assessments of risks and protective factors and child protection plans.
- The quality of reports presented by all agencies to child protection conferences.
- Safer recruitment practice across all agencies.
- The provision of appropriate accommodation, support, health care and education/training to young people leaving custody.
- The implementation by agencies of the LSCB core principles for supervision arrangements of staff engaged in child protection work.
- And completing an audit of how all agencies fulfil their duties to cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people (Section 11 audit)

**6.2** All individual agencies have the responsibility for the quality assurance of child protection activity as it relates to case recording; sharing and communicating information; confirming any referrals in writing; confirming actions taken as a result of such referrals; attendance at and contributions to core group meetings, initial and review child

protection case conferences; written reports submitted to child protection case conferences. The LSCB expects that all individual agencies will have systems in place to ensure this quality assurance.

The LSCB's Safeguarding Children Sub Committee has had responsibility for auditing all strategy discussions, core group meetings, initial and review child protection case conferences against agreed standards and using an evaluation tool. The Safeguarding Children Sub Committee is a multi-agency forum. Actions arising from these reviews are referred back to the appropriate officer/agency and responses tracked by the Sub Committee. This work will be undertaken henceforth by the Learning and Professional Practice sub group.

The SCSC has provided six monthly reports to the LSCB summarising its quality assurance activity, actions taken and outcomes achieved. The LSCB members use these reports to highlight, challenge and improve practice within their respective agencies. Members report back to the Board on outcomes achieved.

The SCSC has undertaken themed audits each year and reviews each child that is coming up to 2 years with a child protection plan, to identify key themes and issues in multi-agency practice and challenge these as appropriate with practitioners and agencies where safeguarding is compromised.

SCSC has also reviewed and update multi-agency policies and protocols i.e. unborn baby protocol, to ensure appropriate and systematic multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns.

The new Professional Practice sub group will be undertaking themed case audits and will also put in place a rolling programme of multi-agency case audit which will involve facilitated case discussion with frontline staff working with the child, young person and their family.

### **6.3 LSCB comments on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

6.3.1 The LSCB noted the following findings within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and how they will inform the work of the Board:-

#### **TO BE DETAILED ACTION: LIZ PRICE**

### **6.4 Areas of strength and areas requiring improvement**

In January 2012 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission completed announced inspections of the Council's Children's Service and the Health services' contributions to safeguarding and looked after children's services in Bath and North East Somerset. The reports resulting from these inspections were published at the end of February 2012 and provided judgements about the effectiveness of these services as well as identifying strengths and areas for improvement for

the LSCB and for individual services. These have informed the priorities for the LSCB for 2012 – 2013 and are incorporated in the work programme detailed below.

The inspection reports have detailed recommendations for immediate actions: actions to be completed within 3 months: and actions to be completed within 6 months. The LSCB made provision for receiving briefing reports and outline action plans from the Council's Children's Service and the Health Services at its meeting in March 2012. Arrangements have been made for progress reports to be presented to the June 2012 and then September 2012 Board meetings for scrutiny and challenge. Arrangements will also be made for an evaluation of the outcomes achieved by the action plans one year on from the inspections.

- 6.4.1 Areas of strength include the fact that the impact of services in ensuring that children and young people are safe and feel safe has been judged by Ofsted to be good: children and young people at immediate risk of significant harm are identified and responded to in a timely way to ensure that they are protected, and partner agencies collaborate well to safeguard children and young people: the role and function of the Local Authority Designated Officer are well established and arrangements for handling allegations against adults working with children and young people are sound: robust arrangements within the Council and across partnerships helps to ensure that the safe recruitment of staff meets the standards adopted by the LSCB: private fostering arrangements are effectively monitored: strategies to prevent school exclusion and improve attendance for all children including those who are vulnerable are highly effective: multi-agency arrangements for identifying and finding young people missing from home, care and school are robust: the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements are effective in protecting the public from persons posing risks to others: there is a well-established partnership of statutory, voluntary and community sector services to develop support services to protect children and young people from bullying: there are good domestic violence services in place.
- 6.4.2 Areas requiring improvement include ensuring that core assessments are completed, are of high quality and fully recorded on case records: achieving consistency in the quality of social work and other agencies reports to child protection case conferences: consistent participation in achieving best evidence interviews: ensuring the consistent recording and distribution of strategy discussions, protection plans and core group meetings: the provision of appropriate child protection and safeguarding training and professional supervision across health provider services: the provision of regular high quality supervision and the recording of management decisions and directions on case records across all services: the robustness of quality assurance and case file audit arrangements: the provision of services to 11 – 18 year olds to improve early identification of the needs of older children and young people who may be vulnerable.



- 6.4.3 Actions to address the areas requiring improvement were detailed in the action plans for the LSCB, Children's Social Care Service and Health services outlined above and included direct support, supervision and training for staff: continuing quality assurance and management of performance: highlighting and sharing best practice: use of LSCB Stakeholder events: communications and Development Days to reinforce standards. Actions being taken to improve practice and records throughout the case conference process.

**TO BE ADDED TO ACTION: ALL LSCB MEMBERS**

**6.5 Needs Analysis**

This section updates the Needs Analysis based upon the Bath and North East Somerset Children and Young People's Needs Assessment published in April 2010, with information relating to 2011-12 and provides the following details in respect of staying safe and safeguarding.

**TO BE DETAILED M. LINDSAY (WITH JOE DUNCAN)**

**6.6 Appendix 2 details tables and charts in respect of the following, showing performance for 2011/12**

- Referrals of children to Children's Social Care Service.
- Rate of referrals per 10,000 children aged under 18.
- Initial assessments completed.
- Rates of initial assessments per 10,000 children aged under 18.
- Timeliness of completion of initial assessments.
- Core assessments of children completed.
- Rates of core assessments per 10,000 children aged under 18.
- Timeliness of core assessments.
- Children who became subject of a Child Protection Plan within the year.
- Rate of children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population aged under 18.
- Numbers of children who are subject of a Child Protection Plan at year end.
- Rate of children who are subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population aged under 18 at end of period.
- Main category of abuse recorded as reason for Child Protection Plan.
- Age and gender of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31.3.10.
- Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more.
- Children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.
- Numbers of children in care.
- Children in care rates per 10,000 aged under 18.
- Reasons for being in care.
- Gender of children in care.

- Ethnicity of children in care.
- Age of children in care.

## **6.7 Review of locally agreed thresholds for referrals of children in need**

6.7.1 The thresholds for referrals of children in need have been reviewed within the re-design of the Council's Children's Social Care Service, and inform the work of the Interface meetings and the Behaviour and Attendance Panels. Thresholds for all services were discussed within the LSCB Stakeholders' event (detailed below), which included a focus upon referrals of children in need.

**To be detailed ACTION: M LINDSAY**

## **6.8 LSCB Stakeholders' Event**

6.8.1 The LSCB's Annual Stakeholders' Event was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This was attended by 90 stakeholders from statutory and voluntary agencies and schools across Bath and North East Somerset, and was used to discuss thresholds for services and how we can work together to ensure that the right children receive the right services at the right time. This was a timely discussion given the increased demands for services being experienced by many services and the impact of budgetary constraints upon the provision of some services. The discussions highlighted actions for inclusion in the Board's work programme for 2013/2014, as well as actions which individuals committed to take following the event.

**To be detailed ACTION: M LINDSAY**

## **7. Serious Case Reviews**

7.1 In November 2012 the LSCB convened a Serious Case Review following the death of a young person. This Serious Case Review is underway at time of writing and will be reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board in May 2013.

7.2 The LSCB has undertaken local management reviews of cases which did not meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review but raised issues in relation to local practice and identified learning points for services. Actions arising from these have been implemented across the appropriate agencies and reported to the LSCB, and discussed in detail at its meeting in December 2012.

## **8. Child Death Overview Panel**

8.1 The LSCB has collaborated with the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board's to establish the West of

England Child Death Overview Panel. The LSCB has thus far provided the Chair, Police, Community Paediatrician representatives to the Panel, and currently provides the Children's Social Care representative. The Divisional Director Children's Services and Integrated Safeguarding Officer have also been members of the CDOP Operations Group.

- 8.2** Arrangements are in place for lessons learned from any individual child death review to be immediately relayed to the LSCB and relevant agencies, and actions taken. Regular reports on the work of the CDOP have been provided to LSCB Business meetings – as a standing agenda item. The CDOP Annual Report for 2011-12 was presented to the LSCB in March 2013. The report details recommendations to improve policy, professional practice and inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Actions to respond to these recommendations are taken forward by the CDOP Operations Group on behalf of the LSCB.
- 8.3** The LSCB (in conjunction with its partner LSCB's) has undertaken an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Child Death Review arrangements using the Government Office self-assessment tool. This evaluation has been presented to the Child Death Overview Panel and the respective LSCBs.
- 8.4** An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Rapid Response Service arrangements has been undertaken. Further, a refresher/training has been provided for staff involved in the Rapid Response Service.
- 8.5** The arrangements for the Child Death Review process were updated in accordance with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 – and will be reviewed in light of any revision to this.

## **9. Progress on priority policy areas**

### **9.1 Engagement of wider community in safeguarding**

- 9.1.1** The LSCB's annual stakeholder events, and the consultations undertaken in respect of the Children and Young People's Plan, achieve good engagement of staff across the statutory, voluntary and community sector working in Bath and North East Somerset – and through this achieves links with the wider community to promote the safeguarding agenda. The opportunities for joint work with the LSAB have promoted a wider understanding and promotion of the safeguarding agenda. The wider engagement of the community – and in particular the active participation of young people, parents and carers (notwithstanding their involvement in previous stakeholder events) – remains rather underdeveloped and requires further attention.

9.1.2 The LSCB has an extensive communication strategy in place via its webpages, newsletters, briefings and distribution of its Annual Report and Work Programme. Proposals are in place for joint communications group with the LSAB.

9.1.3 The LSCB still has a rather underdeveloped media strategy which has fundamentally been reactive rather than proactive. Work has been progressed during 2011-12 to develop this.

9.1.4 Work is progressing to further develop the Board's communication strategy, and consideration is being given to developing a joint communication strategy with the Local Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure that common messages about safeguarding are relayed.

## **9.2 Safer Workforce**

9.2.1 The LSCB has adopted the Safer Recruitment policy as included in the South West Child Protection Procedures.

9.2.2 The LSCB has audited and evaluated individual agency arrangements for Safer Recruitment using the GOSW self-evaluation tool and during 2012-2013 all agencies have reported back to the LSCB on their safer recruitment practice within their respective Section 11 audit reports.

9.2.3 Schools have also been issued with guidelines regarding safer recruitment and are employing these. Appropriate staff have been trained in safer recruitment and the availability of online training is promoted across all agencies and organisations.

## **9.3 Missing Children**

9.3.1 The LSCB has adopted a local protocol for children missing from care and home, in line with the South West Child Protection Procedures. The protocol is available locally via the LSCB website.

9.3.2 The LSCB receives and reviews regular reports from the Young Runaways Monitoring Group Chaired by the Children's Social Care Service Manager. The Group meets quarterly and brings together Children's Social Care Managers, Police and other stakeholders to ensure that children who go missing are effectively safeguarded. The Group shares information about all reported incidents of children going missing from home or care in the Bath and North East Somerset Area and ensures that the protocol is followed in all cases. Actions are taken as required and any lessons learnt from specific incidents are used to inform practice. These arrangements, and the practice associated with them, were identified as a strength within the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in January 2012.

## **9.4 Sexual exploitation**

- 9.4.1 The LSCB has adopted the protocol on sexual exploitation as included in the South West Child Protection Procedures, and will progress actions in line with the national strategy.
- 9.4.2 The LSCB has established a working group within its safeguarding children subcommittee and chaired by the Children's Social Care Service Manager, to address the issue of child sexual exploitation. The working group is overseeing a scoping exercise in which the prevalence of sexual exploitation in Bath and North East Somerset is assessed, a training course established to increase the children's workforce awareness of the issue, and recommendations to improve the responses to sexually exploited young people are being considered.
- 9.4.3 Priority has been given within this LSCB Annual Report's Work Programme and the Children and Young People's Plan to developing the range of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of 11 – 18 year olds, and this will include provision for the prevention of sexual exploitation.
- 9.4.4 The training course being developed by the working group of the safeguarding children subcommittee will be part of the regular programme of Sex and Relationships Training for Children's Services staff delivered by practitioners from a range of services, including School Improvement (PSHE & Drug Education Consultant), the School Nurse Team and the Sexual Health Training Team. A range of resources has been purchased by the Local Authority to enable improved knowledge, skills and understanding of these issues by staff and the vulnerable young people with whom they work.

## **9.5 Child trafficking**

- 9.5.1 The LSCB has adopted the protocol on child trafficking as included in the South West Child Protection Procedures. Local research has concluded that this is not a current issues within Bath and North East Somerset, but this will be kept under review.

## **9.6 Forced marriage**

- 9.6.1 The LSCB has adopted the protocol on forced marriage as included in the South West Child Protection Procedures, and has applied this on a case by case basis.

## **9.7 E-safety**

- 9.7.1 An E-Safety course for all professionals is available as part of the LSCB Training Programme. This is available to all professionals at no cost. E-Safety is also embedded in the work of the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group. This was judged to be a strength within the recent Ofsted inspection of safeguarding services.

9.7.2 A social networking policy has been developed and shared with Schools and staff in Children's Services.

## **9.8 Preventing Bullying**

9.8.1 The Anti-Bullying Strategy has recently been reviewed and refreshed and the further action developed by the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group. Achievements to date have been:-

- Increased involvement of children and young people.
- Applications from Schools for a 'Good Ideas Grant' to prevent bullying in School.
- The distribution to all schools of an easy to read summary of 'What the best schools do' – based on the Ofsted report 'No place for bullying'.
- Enhanced training for school staff.
- An anti-bullying theme within 2012 Primary and Youth Parliaments.
- The development and distribution to all schools of an anti-bullying charter for schools.
- The development and introduction of a serious equalities incident report form.
- The development of the 'In Care, In School' resource and training package for primary and secondary schools.
- Zap assertiveness training courses.
- A newsletter was sent to all Children's Service staff as part of anti-bullying week.

9.8.2 The following priorities have been progressed during 2012-2013:-

- Establishing children and young people's anti-bullying focus groups and support groups in Bath and North East Somerset Schools and other settings.
- Training young people as anti-bullying ambassadors.
- Developing a training pack for lunchtime supervisors and other support staff in schools.

9.8.3 The following priorities have been established for 2013/2014:-

- Enhanced training of school and other staff – to include Youth Service, Youth Offending Team and Social Care
- The establishment of clear information pathways
- Direct work with groups outside the school system
- Maximising the participation of children and young people

## **9.9 Accident prevention**

9.9.1 The Board has continued to support the Child Injury Prevention Strategy and received an annual report in December 2012. Work this year has included specific training for new child-minders, Children's Centre staff, health visitors, and direct work with parents. This has been supplemented by work with year 6 pupils from 23 schools attending the life skills centre.

9.9.2 The Child Safety week focused upon promoting trampoline safety and safe use of hair straighteners, with awareness and education campaign's taking place during the year in respect of car safety seats, water safety, falls, burns and scalds prevention, and window blind cord safety.

## 9.10 Domestic Violence

**UPDATED INFO NEEDED – ACTION PETER BRANDT / TRINA SHANE**

## 9.11 Private fostering

9.11.1 The LSCB has taken actions to promote and increase individual agency and public awareness of private fostering arrangements and the Children's Social Care Services duties in respect of these. This has been undertaken through LSCB briefings, information leaflets, a web page, press coverage, letters to all agencies and establishments who may place children, staff training and the nomination of an identified lead officer for private fostering. These efforts have not yet resulted in a significant increase in the number of private fostering arrangements reported, assessed and supported. As a result, it is likely (in line with the national picture) that only 50% of private fostering arrangements are known to the Local Authority. The LSCB will support continuing campaigns to highlight the position of these potentially vulnerable children and young people.

9.11.2 The LSCB received an Annual Report detailing how the Council carries out its duties in respect of private fostering arrangements. The Report is also presented to the Lead Member of Children's Service.

9.11.3 The most recent Ofsted inspection of the Council's arrangements for carrying out its private fostering duties (2009) judged the arrangements as satisfactory. Work will be undertaken to improve this position.

**UPDATE OF INFO – ACTION: M LINDSAY**

## 10. Priorities for 2013 – 2014

**TO BE DETAILED BY LSCB TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: -**

- Actions to respond to the findings and recommendations for the LSCB and consistent members arising from the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspections of safeguarding and looked after children services undertaken in January 2012.
- Further improve practice and service delivery at the interface between Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health Services to ensure that effective support services are being provided to parents and children in need – and ensuring that there is a clear and sharp focus upon safeguarding children at all times.

- Further improving the quality, and achieving consistency, in interventions, assessment, planning and interagency working to safeguard children and young people.
- Workforce development and training to ensure that staff have the requisite skills and experience to intervene effectively to safeguard children and promote their safe and appropriate care.
- The recruitment, retention and continuous development of front line staff and first line managers in Children's Social Care, Health and Police – with a continuing focus upon staff supervision skills and the use of reflective practice.
- Ensuring that there is a clear focus upon safeguarding children during times of significant organisational change for many constituent members of the LSCB.
- Actions to increase the reporting and assessment of children living in private fostering arrangements.
- A continued emphasis on involving children and young people in the Anti-Bullying Strategy Group.
- Providing early intervention and preventative services to children and young people through the use of a robust assessment process (i.e. the common assessment framework) to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable young people.

#### **11. Work Programme for 2013-14**

**TO FOLLOW**

**Maurice Lindsay  
Divisional Director  
Children's Service**



**Appendix 1 – LSCB Work Programme 2013-2014**

**To be determined by LSCB**

DRAFT

**Appendix 2 – 2011-12 data**

**To follow – Liz Price with Joe Duncan**

DRAFT