

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**



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

## **DRAFT Annual Report 2013- 2014 and Work Programme 2014- 2015**

Foreword – To Challenge and Improve

This is my first report as the Independent Chair of Bath & NE Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board. During my first few months in this role, I have attended meetings of our Sub Groups, Stakeholders and Development days, the Children's Trust Board, as well as a stakeholder meeting of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board. I have been heartened by the professionalism and commitment of everyone I have met.

Bath and NE Somerset is an attractive place in which to live and work. It remains a popular tourist destination. Overall, children and young people enjoy some of the finest services in the UK and the number of child protection cases both referred and acted upon is amongst the lowest in England, even when compared against statistical neighbours. These facts however, mask some pockets of deprivation comparable with those of inner cities and exacerbated by rural isolation. Children are at particular risk in such circumstances.

It is true that more children are harmed through abuse and neglect caused by their own families than anywhere else. However, high profile media coverage of celebrity prosecutions, the sexual exploitation of young girls, bullying via social media and online child abuse serve to remind us of the miasma of other ways in which children can be harmed. During the next 12 months, B&NES LSCB will improve coordination of the work of partner organisations in response to these risks.

The LSCB has published one Serious Case Review in the past 12 months. The Review has identified a number of opportunities to improve emotional support to young people and in particular, the views of young people have been taken into account when structuring services. Underpinning this work is the important message that safeguarding children and young people is everyone's business, not just that of specialists.

Since the report of last year, some significant changes have been implemented to the operation of B&NES LSCB, not the least of which has been the establishment of a new structure of Sub Groups. It is here that already busy people, whose commitment often goes unrecognised, accomplish the hard and very detailed work of the Board. The work of the Sub Groups has matured very quickly and puts the LSCB in a strong position to take forward further improvements into next year. On behalf of the LSCB I offer our thanks to the Chairs and members of these groups.

These improvements have taken place in the context of shrinking public resources and significant reform, particularly applicable to NHS organisations. The LSCB will carefully monitor the impact of further constraints so that children and young people continue to be safe. A more positive aspect of this context is that it presents the opportunity to seek new ways of achieving the same ends. To improve in this environment, we must be prepared to innovate. One aspect of this is that we will actively seek opportunities to work more closely with other bodies such as the Local Safeguarding Adults Board.

The ambitious LSCB delivery plan for last year and the actions for agencies arising from inspections have been largely fulfilled. There remain some outstanding issues and these will be carried forward. We have reviewed and amended our priorities in the light of what has been achieved.

Whilst the LSCB is functioning well, there will always be room to be better at what we do. In the next year we plan to implement improvements to our structure and methods. These will include better arrangements for engagement with children and young people so that our activities are full informed by those whom we protect. We will also strengthen upon communication, particularly with the public, so that everyone understands their responsibility to keep children safe.

This report includes a summary of progress against the delivery plan for last year, as well as our priorities and work programme for the next 12 months. It should amply demonstrate that we have a shared intention to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people in Bath and NE Somerset. Above all, the work of the LSCB pivots on two important ingredients. Individually and collectively we must continue to challenge and improve.

Reg Pengelly  
Independent Chair

## Bath & NE Somerset LSCB

### The Statutory Context and Structure of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

A Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must be established for every local authority area under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including those of developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutiny of local arrangements. The statutory objectives and functions of the LSCB are described in Chapter 3 of the statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013".

Many local agencies are under a legal duty to participate in the activities of the LSCB. They are also subject to a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Section 11 Children Act 2004). In addition, a number of other organisations that play a significant role in the lives of children are also represented. The LSCB is the key statutory body for agreeing how these partners will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in its locality.

The LSCB functions at several levels of operation. At a strategic level, the LSC Board is comprised of representatives who have been nominated by each partner agency and have authority to;

- Speak for their organisation and commit their organization to policies and practices;
- Hold their organisation to account;
- Personally attend at least 75% of all LSCB meetings, with a nominated deputy available when unable to do so;
- Chair a working group;

- Become a nominated work stream lead;
- Facilitate the participation of staff from their agency in the work of the LSCB;
- Contribute to the assessment of performance and report upon improvement activity undertaken by their own agency;
- Provide appropriate challenge to the LSCB and member agencies for the purpose of improving multi – agency safeguarding activity;

Additionally, the LSCB can appoint Associate members, who by reason of their particular expertise are able to make a contribution to the work of the Board. These include Lay / Community members who should provide independent challenge based upon their own local experience. The Chair of the LSCB is appointed by the Local Authority in consultation with partner agencies but should be independent.

In practice the work of the LSCB is supported by a number of Sub – Groups comprised of specialist staff from participating agencies who will develop activities and work streams that meet the objectives of the LSCB. Bath and NE Somerset LSCB currently has the following Sub Groups;

- Training and Workforce Development
- Professional Practice
- Policy Procedures and Performance
- Serious Case Review

In turn, the work of these groups may from time to time be supported by short term working groups.

In addition, the LSCB has a legal responsibility to;

- Undertake a Serious Case Review whenever a child dies or is seriously harmed and the circumstances give rise to doubts over the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that all child deaths are subject to review by the Child Death Overview Panel, which is a shared resource between several LSCBs in this region.

The outcome of these reviews often results in a substantial amount of improvement activity for all of the partner agencies, and is subject to the governance of the LSCB.

### Governance and Accountability

The 2013 revision of “Working Together to Safeguard Children”, introduced some significant alterations to the accountability of LSCBs. In particular, the Independent Chair is now accountable to the Local Authority Chief Executive.

Governance of the LSCB is currently a joint responsibility of the Divisional Director for Children and Young People with the Lead Member for Children & Young People. The work of the LSCB is complementary to and coordinated alongside those of other bodies within the responsibility of Bath & NE Somerset Council including the;

- Children’s Trust Board
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board
- Community Safety Partnership

With effect from 2014, LSCBs will for the first time, be subject to an inspection regime conducted by OfStEd. Several pilots of the inspection have already taken place and it is clear that very high standards will be applied and that the process will be rigorous.

There is a duty upon LSCBs to publish the full report of any Serious Case Review it undertakes. The Independent Chair is now accountable to a nationally appointed Panel in regard to the quality and publication of these reports.

Linked to this is the requirement for every LSCB to produce a Learning and Improvement Framework. This framework is intended to facilitate how the learning from reviews is embedded into practice and that practice in turn leads to improved outcomes for children and young people.

### Moving Forward

Statutory Guidance, particularly Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, set out a large number of issues affecting children and young people that should be routinely, a matter of scrutiny by the LSCB. Quite easily these issues can form a substantial body of material that dominates the agenda, leaving little room for challenge and innovation.

The LSCB is currently reviewing its arrangements so that the structure of at least half of every meeting provides a focused opportunity to thematically review how organisations work together. This will provide the capacity to;

- Ensure that the LSCB is well informed and equipped to provide appropriate challenge and support to partner agencies;

- Promote high standards and quality in delivery;
- Inspire innovation;
- Promote safeguarding as the business of everyone.

Complementary to this, the Bath & NE Somerset LSCB Learning and Improvement Framework is being holistically developed so that learning from challenge as well as reviews readily becomes the basis of practice. The full achievement of such an ambitious goal is likely to take a full 12 months, with staged implementation during the year.

Key priority		Link to other Plans / Ofsted/Boards	Outcomes	Actions	Milestone
1	<p>The LSCB will co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to reduce of risk of CSE (et al) * to Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *E-Safety</li> </ul>	<p>CYPP 2014-2017 'Children and Young People are Safe' (1a,1b)</p> <p>Health and Well Being Strategy (Theme 3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initially an increase in referrals where CSE is identified.</li> <li>• CSE actions are within CP plans</li> <li>• Quantitative and Qualitative information</li> </ul>	1:1 To agree subgroup and reporting structure	Identify member and agree TOR's



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance mis-use.</li> <li>• Missing &amp; runaways.</li> <li>• Radicalisation ( Prevent and Channel)</li> </ul>	<p>Avon Safe Strategy 2014-2015</p> <p>CSE Strategy (Autumn 2014)</p> <p>SCR Action Plans</p>	<p>and intelligence is evident in service improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s workforce have a common understanding of issues, language and responses</li> </ul>	<p>1:2 To draft CSE et al strategy and action plan</p>	<p>Strategy and Act plan developed</p>
				<p>1:3 Establish effective measurements that give indicative data of need in regard to: CSE (et al)</p>	<p>( A senior officer identified as the lead)</p>

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				1.4 Increased awareness amongst the workforce that will enable prevention, early recognition and appropriate intervention to reduce the risk to these vulnerable CYP	Identify training
2	<b>Key priority</b>	<b>Link to other Plans / Ofsted/Boards</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Milestone</b>

2	<p>To increase the participation and involvement of children, young people and parents/carers in service improvements and developments both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of current services</li> <li>• Aspirations of new ones</li> </ul>	<p>CYPP 2014-2017 Children and Young People are Safe' (1b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Parents feel more engaged in the Child Protection Process</li> <li>• Parents with specific needs are better able to contribute to child protection plans and reduction of risk</li> <li>• Children should be on CP Plans for shorter periods</li> <li>• Less children coming back onto plans</li> <li>• Fewer complaints on CP process</li> </ul>	<p>2:1 Audit of commissioning to and by the LSCB, of participation work already undertaken in the area.</p>	<p>Mapping of current arrangements</p> <p>Gap analysis</p>
		<p>Health and Well Being Strategy (Theme1)</p>		<p>2:2 Reporting schedule on user feedback - learning and change from it</p>	<p>Identify lead for this.</p> <p>Develop framework of reporting structure</p>
		<p>Emotional Health and well Being Strategy</p>		<p>2.3 Children experience good seamless arrangements between services when they have different levels of need/risk</p>	

				2.4 Consider options of young people's participation to inform Board's priorities and ensure they include the key safeguarding issues	Develop YP Share Board and TOR's
				2.5 Establish link and working arrangements with Health Watch (see also 5.3)	
Key priority		Link to other plans / Boards	Outcomes	Actions	Milestone
3	A robust audit tool to be used to determine the quality of safeguarding and compliance with Section 11 across all member agencies required to complete Section 11	CYPP 2014-2017 'Children and Young People are Safe' (1a, 1b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding Standards of S11 are embedded across the workforce effectively and ensure that all Commissioning is using the same standards</li> <li>Audit tool is generic to services operating across region.</li> </ul>	3.1 Improvement of Section 11 Form and Development of scoring tool	Draft tool

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved number and quality of S11 returns</li> <li>• An analytical report to the board identifying trends and gaps.</li> </ul>	3.2 Evidence Strategy and Action Plans to address concerns with agencies	
	A 'common' tool to be used across B&NES, Bristol, North Somerset and Somerset for co-terminus agencies working within those authorities.			3.3 Agreed protocol and process with Neighbouring Authorities' LSCB.	Draft protocol to be agreed and further meetings with neighbouring LSCB's
				3.4 Review of Safeguarding Standards in Commissioning	Review standards and develop improved measurements Preparation and roll out to providers
					Implementation and contract variations

					Action Plan
4	Sufficient and Competent Workforce to ensure Children and Young People are 'safe'	CYPP 2014-2017 'Children and Young People are Safe' (1a, 1b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of learning across the partnership collectively and individual agencies from the Learning and Improvement Strategy</li> <li>• Staff are trained and developed at appropriate level and knowledge to make them effective in their work to keep children safe</li> <li>• Training Sub group ensure LSCB training meets needs and timescales with single agency training.</li> </ul>	4:1 A strategic and dynamic action plan for training and development that is informed by qualitative and quantitative needs analysis	
				4.2 Develop a process that identifies gap in workforce capacity, knowledge of skills and partnership is able to respond	
				4.3 Promote learning from best practice, SCRs and audits within Learning and Improvement framework see (6.5)	

Key priority	Link to other plans / Boards	Outcomes	Actions	Milestone		
5	<b>Continuous Improvement of LSCB</b>	CYPP 2014-2017 'Children and Young People are Safe' (1b,)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LSCB has a high profile and is seen as effective in both quality assurance and driving improvement in Safeguarding</li> <li>Clear, complimentary role and relationship with other strategic boards that increases effectiveness and efficiency</li> </ul>	5.1 Business processes reviewed (structure ,reporting, TOR's, meeting timetable,budgeting etc) to increase efficiency,effectiveness and timeliness.		
					5.2 Improved use of impact measurements and PI's to enable proactive rather than reactive actions.	

					<p>5.3 Clarify and improve relationships with other strategic boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LSAB</li> <li>• CTB</li> <li>• H&amp;WB</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Board,</li> <li>• Youth Justice Board, IVASP</li> <li>• Healthwatch</li> </ul> <p>and develop or review protocols</p>	<p>Identify and develop actions shared priorities issues e.g., Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Substance misuse and information sharing.</p> <p>Constructive 'challenge' between boards</p>
					<p>5.4 Development of effective Learning and Improvement framework including lessons learnt from SCR's and holding agencies to account on Action Plans</p>	



						5.6 Ensure all core functions and developments meet or exceed OFSTED expectations.	
						5.7 Develop individual peer review system to enable effective board membership and 360 degree feedback for chair.	

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