



LSCB

Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Executive Summary

August 2017

1. The Role of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

B&NES LSCB is a statutory (though independent) Board established under the Children Act 2004 (Section 13) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006. It is independently Chaired and consists of senior representatives of all the principle stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people across the area.

The Terms of Reference for the LSCB are available on the LSCB website:

[Terms Of Reference](#)

As the LSCB for B&NES, we are responsible for coordinating and monitoring the work of agencies, especially but not exclusively those providing services to children and families, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In doing so the Board:

- Promotes and supports activities that protect children and young people from significant harm and the continuing risk of harm;
- Works to raise awareness within the wider community, including statutory, voluntary and independent agencies, about how everybody can contribute to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

2. The Work of the LSCB

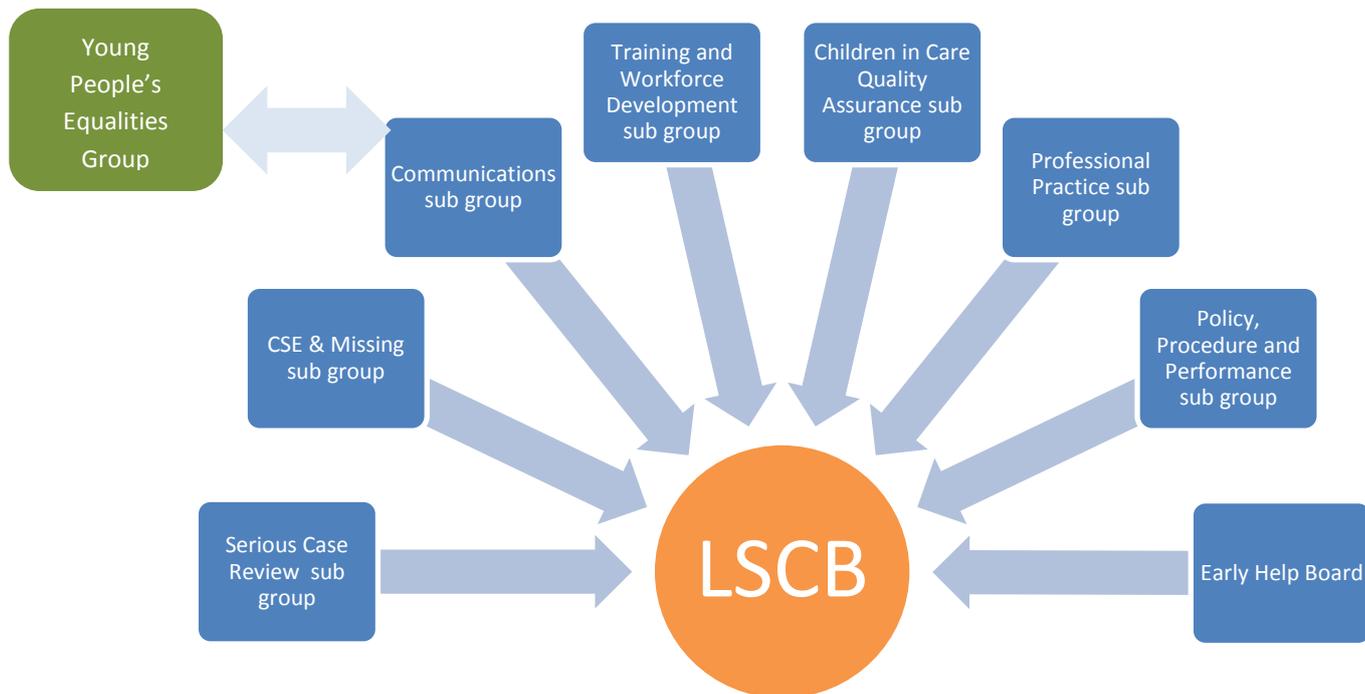
The work of the LSCB includes but is not limited to:

- Taking the lead to ensure that agencies work well together to safeguard children and young people.
- Ensuring that all organisations comply with their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Coordinating and delivering multi-agency safeguarding children training.
- Promoting and publishing multi-agency child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Commissioning Serious Case Reviews and multi-agency audits so that we learn what we need to improve in terms of the work that we carry out with children, young people and families.
- Overseeing multi-agency learning events and conferences so that good practice is shared.
- Playing a key role in ensuring and monitoring that recommendations from inspections and reviews about safeguarding children are carried through.
- Working alongside other committees/boards such as the Children's Trust Board (dissolved in December 2016), Local Safeguarding Adults Board and the Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that work to safeguard children is co-ordinated.

3. The Sub-Groups of the LSCB

The LSCB has eight sub-groups as set out below. The Terms of Reference for each of the sub-groups are available on the LSCB web page:

[LSCB Terms of Reference](#)



- Each sub group reports progress on the Board's Business Plan on a quarterly basis and contributes to the Chair's Business Management Group meetings. Each sub-group has a duty to challenge practice within the partnership where it identifies issues of concern.
- The full Annual Report 2016-17 lists the key achievements, challenges and priorities for each sub group in 2017-18. The report is available on the LSCB website <https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/>
- The LSCB adopted a three year Business Plan from September 2015 to March 2018. This is monitored by the Sub Group Chairs prior to the Board and reported on at each Board meeting. A new Business Plan will be drafted and consulted on from November 2017 in readiness for April 2018. The year-end report is available on the public website: [LSCB Business Plan 2015-18](#) Year End March 2017



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call 01225 396312 or 01225 396313 immediately

4. LSCB and LSAB Stakeholder Day



In line with this collaborative approach of the joined Training and Development Sub Groups for the B&NES Adults and Childrens Safeguarding Boards, it was agreed that this year's stakeholder's day would be a joint event between the two Boards. It was hoped this approach would encourage practitioners from all sectors to take a 'Think Family' approach to working with those impacted and affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse.

The joint event provided a valuable opportunity to share ideas and information and establish clarity about respective roles and responsibilities to aid positive working across organisations. However, the variety of professionals attending the day led to additional complexities in creating the programme content as domestic abuse is a multifaceted topic and there would be a differing level of knowledge held within the room. To try to balance the learning needs of the adult's and children's workforce it was agreed that it was important to give an overview of the subject, then focus on specific areas which are prevalent in the work undertaken with families, including the importance of understanding coercive control.

The whole day was facilitated by an independent facilitator who has considerable experience in safeguarding adults and domestic abuse; has worked with young people and their parents affected by parental abuse and also written on the interrelationship between Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Violence and Abuse.

5. Outcomes

- Throughout 2016-17 B&NES recorded continued pressures in relation to safeguarding activity. The work of partners on launching the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and a continued emphasis on the importance of Early Help interventions has helped to stabilise child protection numbers. At the end of 2016-17 there were 152 young people subject to a Child Protection Plan, this represent a rise of one on the figure of 151 in the previous year. In the coming months the LSCB will continue to work on the development of the multi-agency Early Help Hub arrangements and will also review the effectiveness of the MASH. The rate of re-referrals into Children's Social Care continues to remain lower than the national average which is indicative of good quality assessments and interventions which are predominantly meeting the needs of families. At the end of 2016-17 there were no Child Protection Plans recorded as being over two years duration.

- The number of Common Assessment Framework's (CAF) has risen slightly this year. The 2016-17 out-turn for the total number completed during the year was 351 a rise of 23 on the previous year's figure of 328. However the LSCB has also been able to develop it's reporting to be able to more accurately monitor the range of other Early Help referrals. When all Early Help referrals from Children's Centre's, Youth Connect and commissioned services are included B&NES is now receiving in excess of 400 Early Help referrals each quarter. This is positive and confirms a good use of - and understanding from - all agencies of the range of Early Help services available to our families.
- Like the previous year, performance data for the overall rates of contacts and referrals remains very stable. This is indicative of all agencies having a good understanding of thresholds.
- At the end of March 2017, there were 684 children who were deemed as being Children in Need. This figure has risen from 580 in the previous year, and represents a pressure on services. Likewise the number of "Looked After" children has also risen slightly this year to 160 from the previous figure of 149.
- The LSCB has also:
 - a) recruited a number of new Lay Members to the Board. These members have quickly established themselves as confident and knowledgeable contributors to discussion and debate at meetings which is very positive.
 - b) Joint working arrangements between the LSCB and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) have further been strengthened through a number of joint development days (including a joint Stakeholder day), planning for a new web-site and the formation a joint Communications sub-group which was implemented in May 2017.
 - c) The Professional Practice sub group (PPG) has continued to audit and scrutinise the work and decision making of all agencies involved in safeguarding decision making. In the past year the group has been able to challenge how agencies are working to prevent and reduce drift in safeguarding cases as well as challenging practice in relation to decision-making at Initial Child Protection Conferences. The Board has taken very seriously the challenges in regard to preventing some of the drift identified by the PPG in some of this audit activity.
 - d) The LSCB has continued to support the work of the Willow Project and has recently agreed to fund the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) consultant who has greatly assisted in the development of the project as well as playing an instrumental role in updating the CSE Protocol, Strategy and Action Plans to ensure these remain relevant to the new ideas and practice innovations within this area of work.
 - e) In the last 12 months the LSCB has agreed to undertake a Serious Case Review (SCR) in relation to young people who were involved in Operation Button, the follow up investigation to the convictions made in August 2016 of a number of men who had been charged with offences relating to concerns of

Child Sexual Exploitation. The SCR will build on some of the findings of these convictions and will be due at some point in 2017.

- f) The LSCB has continued to update and revise a range of key policies and guidance to ensure that the Board continues to be informed through documents that remain up to date and relevant to emerging priorities. In the past twelve months the Board has endorsed and revised a range of documents some of which include Child Sexual Exploitation, the Board Assurance Framework, Neglect and non-mobile babies.
 - g) Safeguarding Training we delivered:
 - o 59 LSCB training sessions comprising of 33 different courses were made available
 - o 15 Single agency training sessions were provided
 - o 1436 Inter-agency training places made available of which 1264 Inter-agency training places were filled and 821 professionals trained.
- The LSCB faces a number of current and future Challenges/Areas for Development:
 - a) The LSCB prepared during 2016-17 for its review from Ofsted; this review represents the first occasion that the LSCB will have been inspected. Feedback from colleagues across the country that have already undertaken this inspection process has confirmed that it is rigorous and challenging. Ofsted arrived in April 2017 and whilst this report does not cover that period the challenges for 2017-18 are to implement the three recommendations and build on the 'Good' rating which was awarded.
 - b) In January 2017 the Chair of the LSCB, Reg Pengelly notified the Council Chief Executive and LSCB that he intends to stand down as Chair after four years of service. Reg will leave the LSCB in September 2017. The Board started the recruitment process and a new Chair was appointed in May 17. Robert Lake will take the reins in September 2017.
 - c) In last year's report we highlighted the implementation of the Wood report as one of the key challenges for the board. These challenges of what function the board may take remain. Along with other LSCB's in the South West region we have participated in a number of events that have begun to explore options across the region and the resource and financial implications that are inherent within any changes which are linked to continuing funding pressures for all partners. We remain very engaged with the national agenda on the future of LSCB's and look forward to any further clarification that might be in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.



6. Engagement with Children & Young People

Both the Member of the B&NES Youth Parliament (MYP) and the Deputy (DMYP) now attend the LSCB Communications Sub Group and have been developing the young people's LSCB webpages.

B&NES Council has a contract to deliver our model of **Participation** between 2016/2019. Our contract is with Off the Record a local organisation based in central Bath.

<http://www.offtherecord-banes.co.uk/>

The following is an overview of the participation work undertaken by the In Care Councils, Youth Forum and the Young Inclusion Advocates, April 2016 - March 2017

Senior in Care Council - SICC:

- Wrote and scored interview questions for Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
- Wrote and delivered presentation about work experience campaign to ICC steering group
- Updated poster 'What makes a good social worker' with carer leavers and their own additional feedback. On B&NES Social Care recruitment page
- Put care leavers feedback in a 'young person friendly' format
- Delivered a presentation for the IROs - as a result the care review "Your review" has been updated and the wording changed.
- Wrote a PowerPoint for IRO training day
- Feedback about LAC packs
- Gave a presentation to Education Students at Bath Spa University.
- Were involved in the interviews for the post of Virtual Head
- Wrote and scored questions for IRO/CP chair Interviews
- Attended Corporate Parents Group and met with Corporate Parent Chris Watt
- Took part in a PHD project run by a care leaver
- Attended 2 In Care Council Steering groups
- Took part in a BANES in care/care leavers sexual health consultation
- Interviewed for LAC Nurse position
- Gave Feedback on Health Passports
- Gave Feedback on Work Experience – leading to a Virtual Schools questionnaire and event covering work experience
- Wrote scenarios for the BANES PSHE mental health pack
- Attended PDS meeting

Junior in Care Council - JICC:

- Social Care and OTR have undertaken successful two social events, and additional 1-1 visits to children aged x 7 + as part of advocacy consultation

- Given feedback on Child Friendly Children in Care Plans

Care Leavers:

- Two social events and feedback given about their experiences “Keep it, Kick It”.

Youth Forum:

Main focus of their work has been Make Your Mark (MYM) a young person led national campaign.

(The Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP) is also a member of the SICC)

- The Deputy Member of Youth Parliament (DMYP) created a PowerPoint for the (MYM) campaign used by Members of Youth Parliament’s across the country
- An Inclusion Advocate helped create the inclusive ballot for MYM which has been used nationwide and includes the OTR and BANES Youth Forum logo (created by our young people).
- Youth Forum delivered workshops and presentations on MYM
- DMYP created a PowerPoint for Don’t Hate Educate Campaign (again used nationally by MYP’s and workers).
- DMYP/SICC member gave an excellent presentation on Mental Health and Wellbeing at 2016 Primary Parliament
- MYP attended PDS meeting with PSHE lead talked about Mental Health Pack and feeding back to schools about Mental Health including findings from Young Parliament Day 2016.
- MYP Annual Sitting taking part in debates, workshops and attending Key Note Speeches.
- MYP, DMYP and UK Youth Parliament Procedures Group young person lead met to analyse mental health survey data
- Consultations with Virgin Care and NHS England
- CAMHS commission
- Your Care Your Way
- Attended PDS meeting
- Created a tree for the Forest of Imagination event
- MYP attended the House of Commons MYP"s debate aired on National TV
- MYP and Youth Forum member attended debates in the House of Commons including 50:50 Parliament and Equalities debates
- Created scenarios for a PSHE mental health video

BANES Young Inclusion Advocates:

- Young Inclusion Advocates (BYIA) session was inclusive for disabled and

non-disabled young people. Young people gave feedback on the short breaks statement including a request for an easy read/widget version, gave quote for the statement .

- Created inclusive ballot paper for MYM.

Useful links to:

Participation and consulting with Children and Young People

Click below

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/your-council-and-democracy/consultations/consulting-children-and-young-people/strategy-part>

Here you will find a range of documents that evidence how we engage with our children and young people in B&NES

7. Independent Chair's Closing Summary



Despite considerable financial pressure on all of our member agencies, the evidence within this report demonstrates a continuing commitment to protecting the vulnerable. What is more is that in many respects, safeguarding arrangements are stronger and demonstrate positive outcomes for children and families. I am delighted to report that our recent Ofsted Inspection has confirmed that the B&NES LSCB is thorough and effective at what it does in monitoring and coordinating multi agency arrangements. However none of this should be taken as a sign of complacency. There are huge challenges ahead in terms of new risks, tighter financial constraints, new legislation and new opportunities for doing things differently. I am confident that these challenges will be well met and that B&NES will continue to be a safe place in which children and young people can thrive.