



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2017 – 2018

Executive Summary

June 2018

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

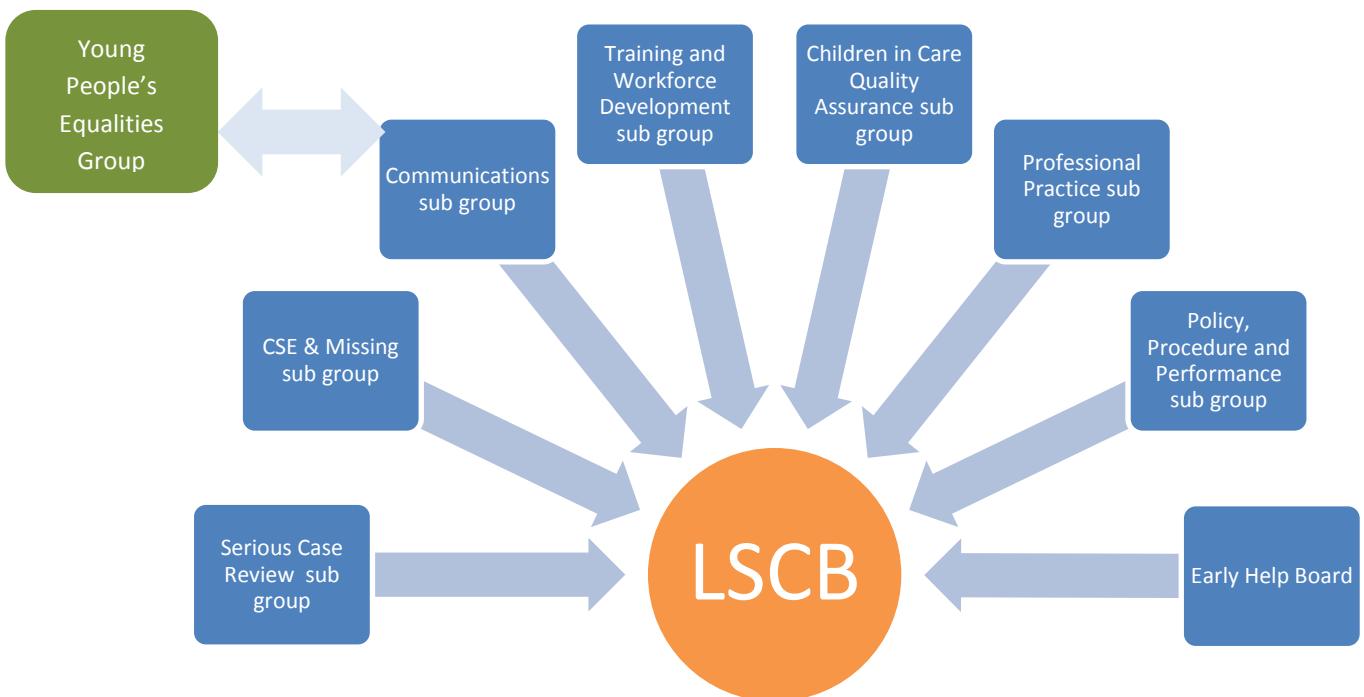
2. The Work of the LSCB

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. During 2017-18, the Policy, Procedure and Performance Monitoring Group (PPPG) changed its role due to the workload and became the Performance Monitoring Group (PMG). A new Policy and Procedure Group is due to form in early 2018. The Terms of Reference for each of the sub-groups is available on the LSCB web page [here](#).



- Each sub group reports progress on the Board's Business Plan for 2015-18 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 2017-18 lists the key achievements, challenges and priorities for each sub groups. 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 was monitored by the Sub Group Chairs prior to the Board and reported on at each Board meeting. The three year plan has now been completed and is available on safeguarding website:
[Business Plan 2015-18 - Final Out Turn Year End March 2018](#)
Many actions have been completed or are continuing as business as usual within sub groups or operational work. Any outstanding actions have been transferred to the new Strategic Plan 2018-21. The LSCB has now finished its three year Joint Working Plan with the LSAB.
- During 2018, the LSCB partners and Business Management Group have been

working on the development of a new Strategic Plan for 2018-21. This will be more outcomes or impact focused and will be finalised in June 2018 and then published on the safeguarding website. The Business Management Group will then agree the reporting process for the new Plan to the LSCB so that regular updates can be posted on the website as before after each Board meeting.

The LSCB agreed the one page version of the Strategic Plan in March 2018 which is available on the safeguarding website:

[LSCB Strategic Plan 2018-21 on a page](#)

The new Plan has 5 key outcomes and 13 priorities in order to meet them.

Five Outcomes

- All children and young people are safe
- Children, young people, carers and families contribute to the way services respond to child protection and children in care safety concerns
- LSCB is assured that safeguarding is embedded; is delivered to a high standard and is effective across all partner agencies
- A skilled, trained and competent workforce
- The LSCB is effective and responds to the new legislative requirements



4. Outcomes

- Throughout 2017-18 B&NES recorded continued pressures in relation to safeguarding activity. Partners have continued to focus on the importance of developing Early Help resources that will prevent the escalation of concerns for many of our vulnerable families. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the work of the Early Help Board have continued to make significant contributions to this agenda. At the end of 2017-18 there were 176 young people subject to a Child Protection Plan, this represents a significant rise from the previous year (151) and illustrates both the local and national pressures in relation to Safeguarding activity. The number of children “Looked After” in B&NES has also increased in the past year up to 168 at the end of the year (from 160 in 16/17). The demand for services within both the Council Duty team and across many other agencies has also increased. The Council Duty team has seen a rise in “Requests for Services” of over 25% in the past two years. However, 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.
- The number of Common Assessment Framework’s (CAF) has fallen over the last 12 months. This is primarily due to the work that we are currently undertaking to review and refresh the template for these early intervention assessments. A number of agencies have been involved in designing and piloting the new templates which will be launched in July 2018. Despite the reduction of CAF’s, the overall number of referrals across all Early Help services remains strong with each quarter showing referrals in excess of 300. 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.
- At the end of March 2018, there were 610 children who were deemed as being Children in Need. This figure is slightly down from the previous year but is within our expected range and in line with national trends.
- The LSCB has also:
 - a) Further strengthened joint working arrangements between the LSCB and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) through further joint policies, the launch of our new safeguarding website and the formation of a joint Communications sub-group which was implemented in May 2017 and is now well established and has involved consultation from young people.
 - b) 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.

- c) The LSCB has continued to support the work of the Willow Project and continues 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.
- d) The LSCB has continued to undertake work on the two SCR's that were commissioned last year one in relation to a young baby and the other for 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.. We anticipate that both of these will now be published in the autumn of 2018/19. The SCR sub group has also considered two other requests for SCR's over the past year. Although the decision was not to proceed for both cases as they did not meet the threshold for an SCR, the SCR group agreed that both cases would benefit from internal leaning and review processes which are now underway.
- e) 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 the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017-2019, B&NES Domestic Abuse Statement 2017, the Board Assurance Framework, Private Fostering leaflets, LSCB and LSAB Modern Slavery Statement, Joint Working in Mental Health, Early Help Strategy and Threshold Document, and LSCB and LSAB Communications and Media Protocol.
- f) Robert Lake has now taken on the chairing of the B&NES LSCB. The hand-over from Reg Pengelly was very smooth and the board has retained a good sense of continuity and strength.
- g) 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 the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017-2019, B&NES Domestic Abuse Statement 2017, the Board Assurance Framework, Private Fostering leaflets, LSCB and LSAB Modern Slavery Statement, Joint Working in Mental Health, Early Help Strategy and Threshold Document, and LSCB and LSAB Communications and Media Protocol.
- h) Safeguarding Training we delivered:
 - 70 LSCB training sessions taking place comprising of 26 different courses
 - 1247 Inter-agency training places made available
 - 1151 Inter-agency training places booked
 - 1026 Inter-agency training places attended

- 768 professionals trained across the LSCB partner agencies, Voluntary and Private sectors
- 680 E-learning modules started and 472 completed through the Learning Pool
- 14 Single agency training sessions taking place
- The LSCB faces a number of current and future Challenges/Areas for Development in 2018-19:
 - a) In last year's report we highlighted the implementation of the Wood Report as one of the key challenges for the board. This challenge of what format the Board may take remains. Members of the LSCB have actively participated in a regional group which continues to look at future options for all agencies in light of the recommendations of the Wood report. This work will continue throughout 2018/19 in order to ensure that we have inter-agency arrangements that ensure we are in-step with the over-arching recommendations of the Wood report whilst at the same time seeking to protect and build upon the very positive observations that were central to the Ofsted report in May 2017. We have also met with our new safeguarding partners the BaNES NHS CGG and Avon and Somerset Constabulary to look at possible new safeguarding arrangements to replace the LSCB and the resource and financial implications that are inherent within any changes which are linked to continuing funding pressures for all partners. Once Working Together 2018 and the new Statutory Guidance are published we will have 12 months to inform the Government of our new safeguarding arrangements and then three months to implement the change.

5. Engagement with Children & Young People

B&NES Council has a contract with Off the Record (OTR) to promote the participation of children and young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable, in order to ensure their voices are heard and responded to, and to encourage their active involvement in decision-making, service delivery and strategic development.

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

The following is an overview of the participation work undertaken by the In Care Councils, Youth Forum which includes the Young Inclusion Advocates (Young People with SEND) and covers the period April 2017 - March 2018.

Senior in Care Council - SICC:

- Wrote and scored interview questions for IRO/CP chairs, LSCB Independent Chair, OTR Listening and Support worker and maternity cover for the Participation Worker
- 3 members attended a national Mental Health Consultation in London
- 2 members delivered Participation training for B&NES staff
- Met with and gave feedback to an inspector, as part of the Ofsted Inspection in 2017. Highlighted within the Ofsted report:

“The Junior and Senior Children in Care Councils are very focused and active groups. They provide strong representation on behalf of Children looked after. And are active members of the corporate parenting group and the Children in Care Council steering group. They campaign effectively on a number of relevant issues and have recently promoted their group by means of a radio podcast. This includes work to develop child-friendly care plans, the development of health passports for younger children in care and engagement in a fitness targeted consultation event to gather feedback on health reviews. The Children in Care council won the award for ‘Young Volunteer of the Year’ award at the Chairman of Bath awards 2016, of which they are rightly very proud. Their commitment to supporting young people in Care is highly commendable.”

- Wrote and delivered presentations to Corporate Parents and PDS
- Worked with the Virtual Head to resolve the issues they had with the proposed changes to the Pupil Premium.
- Were involved with the election process for the Member of Youth Parliament.
- Worked with B&NES Head of Safeguarding and the LSCB Business Manager on promotion of safeguarding of young people.
- Worked with the Youth Forum to deliver a workshops at both Secondary and Primary School Parliaments 2017/2018
- Planned resources for inclusion in Health Care packs
- Supported with the Off the Record Team’s development day
- Developed and filmed their Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) on Being in Care.

Junior in Care Council - JICC:

- Social Care and OTR have undertaken two social events, and additional 1- 1 visits to children aged 7+ (as part of advocacy consultation)
- SICC worked with the JICC on the presentation given to Ofsted
- SICC consulted the JICC on what they would like to see in the PSHE being in care film.
- The work with the JICC will be further developed during 2018-2019

Care Leavers:

- One social event and a care leaver attended the filming of the PSHE film.
- Support to Care Leavers and the Local Offer will be further developed during 2018-2019

Youth Forum:

- Planned and delivered workshops for the Secondary and Primary Parliaments 2017/2019
- Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) gave a speech at the Primary Parliament Day
- Worked on ballots and campaigning ballots for the Make your Mark National Youth Campaign
- Members of Youth Forum attended Youth Parliament convention in Plymouth

- Member of Youth Forum (Young Inclusion Advocate) attended the British Youth Council Convention in Exeter, networking with members from across the SW and delivered a speech on Parliament Days
- Worked on the Curriculum for Life - PSHE resource
- Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) training and development day for potential MYP candidates - 14 young people from across B&NES attended
- Worked with CAMHS participation group
- Worked with B&NES Head of Safeguarding and the LSCB Business Support Manager on the LSCB Strategic Plan for 2018 - 2021.
- The Member of the Bath & North East Somerset Youth Parliament (MYP) has continued to attend the LSCB Communications sub-group in 2017-18 and has been developing the young people's LSCB webpages.

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

6. Independent Chair's Closing Summary



The B&NES LSCB is in good heart, as evidenced by the findings of an Ofsted inspection published in July 2017. However, the Ofsted findings have not given the Board an excuse to sit back on its collective laurels but have encouraged us to continue to drive forward and do all we can to ensure that safeguarding services across the area are the best they can be. Working in partnership across the safeguarding agencies is vital but challenges to effective partnership working are still with us, not the least of which is the constant need to do more with less. It is to the credit of the partners in Bath and North East Somerset that they have continued to fully support the work of the Board.

I very much hope that the reader will find this Executive Summary of our 2017/18 Annual Report of interest and I hope it will encourage you to at least dip into the full report. Just a few of the key developments/practice issues that have been noteworthy in 2017/18 include:

- The creation of a multi-agency safeguarding hub (Mash) which, together with a continued emphasis on the provision of Early Help, has helped to stabilise the numbers of children with whom child protection intervention has been necessary – the number of Early Help referrals, from all sources, is now averaging some 400 per quarter

- However, the number of children identified as being children in need has risen by 18% in the last year, a trend which will need to keep under close scrutiny
- We have welcomed new Lay Members to our Board who are making a very positive contribution to our work, which I am sure will continue.

This is the first occasion when I have written the Foreword to the Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report. I became the Independent Chair of the Board in October 2017 taking over from Reg Pengelly who had served the Board with distinction and skill. On behalf of all of those involved in or receiving safeguarding services in Bath and North East Somerset, a very big 'Thank You' to Reg for all his hard work.

I trust that you will find this report informative and readable. If you have any comments you would wish to raise with me, I can be contacted on robert_lake@bathnes.gov.uk