

| Bath & North East Somerset Council | | |
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| MEETING/ DECISION MAKER: | Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel | |
| MEETING/ DECISION DATE: | 01 October 2019 | EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: |
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| TITLE: | Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19 and Local Safeguarding Adult Board Annual Report 2018-19 | |
| WARD: | All | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: Please list all the appendices here, clearly indicating any which are exempt and the reasons for exemption Attachment 1: LSCB Annual Report Executive Summary 2018-19 Attachment 2: LSCB Annual Report 2018-19 Attachment 3: LSAB Annual Report Executive Summary 2018-19 Attachment 4: LSAB Annual Report 2018-19 | | |

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 People and Communities Directorate would like to set out for the Panel the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) during 2018-19 and the work of the Local Safeguarding Adult Board (LSAB) in 2018-19 along with new priorities to be actioned in the Strategic Plan for 2018-21.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Proposal 1: Note the Annual Report, Executive Summary for the LSCB and LSAB
- 2.2 Proposal 2: Raise any queries or concerns on safeguarding activity

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Local Safeguarding Children's Board Report:

3.1.1 The report contains information covering the following areas:

- the current context for B&NES and how safe children and young people are
- an update on changes to national and local policy,
- the Boards governance arrangements and relationships with other Boards and Committees,
- the work of the sub-groups and the achievements during the year,
- the work undertaken by the Council's Schools Improvement, the Virtual School, Disabled Children's team/SEND,
- the work of the Responsible Authorities Group and Public Health,
- the support and case activity that has taken place during the year and compares this with national data where this is available,
- delivery of the 2018-19 work programme and priorities for 2019 – 20

3.1.2 Activity and Information Highlights

- Throughout 2018-19 B&NES Children's Social Care recorded continued pressures in relation to safeguarding activity. The contact rates continued to be high across the partnership. 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 Early Help Assessment, related guidance and training materials were re-launched in early 2019: the early help allocations panel (EHAP) has worked effectively to support an increased number of families that did not meet the statutory social care thresholds. The Head of Safeguarding Outcomes and colleagues re-established the Quarterly Partner Meetings and Children's Social Care have attended the Child Protection Forums. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the work of the Early Help Board have continued to make significant contributions to this agenda. Work took place to review the multi-agency threshold document in 2018/2-19 and the revised documents will be completed in 2019.
- Children's Social Care has effectively worked with multi-agency partners to safeguard children, young people and families across B&NES in 2018/2019. A significant number of families have been supported as detailed below:
- 1425 children supported by Children in Need Services *according to LA definition of CIN*. (1759 – 17/18 – “Children with an episode of need at any point during the year” – DFE definition)
- 272 children supported by Child Protection Services (313 – 17/18 – “Number of children on child protection plan at any point during the year” – DFE definition)
- 264 children supported by Looked after Children Services (229 – 17/18 – “All children looked after during the year ending 31st March excluding those only looked after during a series of short term placements – DFE definition)
- 1277 children supported by an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) - snapshot of the number of EHCP children as per the census date in January 2019
- During 2018/19, 1,195 referrals were received by Early Help Services.

Throughout 2018/2019 there was the further development of the Care Leavers Local and the development of Adoption West, the Regional Adoption Agency co-owned by the 6 Local Authorities. Children's Services, along with the CCG and multi-agency partners were judged as effectively implementing the SEND Reforms following the Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND in B&NES in March 2019. Much work has been undertaken to streamline the strategic approach to exploitation and revised pathways have been reviewed for most of the 6 strands. The Council Adolescent at Risk Team (ART) has been expanded to provide specialised support around contextual safeguarding.

3.1.3 Key Achievements to Note

- Engagement with children and young people – The former Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) gave a presentation to the Board on the work of the Youth Forum, Senior in Care Council (SICC) and Youth Parliaments. The Senior in Care Council worked with the LSCB Business Manager on the promotion of safeguarding of young people by designing the young Person's Guide to the LSCB, feeding into the new Strategic Plan 2018-21 and adding questions to the Annual Safeguarding in Education audit on discrimination and hate crime which all but one establishment in B&NES then completed.
- Further strengthened joint working arrangements between the LSCB and Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) are now embedded in each Strategic Plan and the continued work of the joint Communications sub-group and joint Training & Development sub group.
- 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.
- The LSCB has continued to support the work of the Willow Project and continued 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 providing training and updating the CSE Strategy and Action Plans into an overarching Youth @ Risk Strategy covering all exploitation which will be launched in 2019/20.
- The LSCB has continued to undertake work on the two SCR's that were commissioned two years ago, 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. The SCR sub group has also completed two Learning Reviews for cases that did not meet the threshold for an SCR, one action plan is completed and the other is underway and being monitored by the SCR sub group. Finally with changes in legislation through Working Together 2018 and the SCR process, the SCR group has undertaken one Rapid Review. The National Panel agreed with the

recommendation that this did not meet the threshold and, the SCR group is overseeing an action plan as a result.

- 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 Bruising in Children Protocol, Youth @ Risk Strategy, Revised Information Sharing Protocol, Managing Allegations Protocol, Neglect Toolkit, Revised LSAB & LSCB Escalation Protocol, B&NES Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018, the Board Assurance Framework, and LSCB and LSAB Communications and Media Protocol.
- Robert Lake unfortunately had to retire in January 2019 as the Independent Chair due to health issues and Bruce Laurence, the Director of Public Health who was the Deputy Chair has stepped up to chair the LSCB in the interim.
- Safeguarding Training we delivered:
 - 72 LSCB training sessions taking place comprising of 25 different courses
 - 11400 Inter-agency training places made available
 - 1287 Inter-agency training places booked
 - 1124 Inter-agency training places attended
 - 797 professionals trained
 - On average over 85% completed evaluations and these are demonstrating impact.
 - 99 Professionals attended LSCB Stakeholder Day on Neglect
 - 9 Single agency training sessions taking place
 - 275 E-learning modules started and completed through the Learning Pool

3.2 The Local Safeguarding Adult Board Report

3.2.1 Information and Activity Highlights

- During the reporting period 2018/19 B&NES received 1,150 safeguarding concerns (referrals).
- Of these concerns, 325 resulted in support being provided through the safeguarding process.
- 72% of all concerns raised did not require a safeguarding response and were either supported through: the provision of information and advice; a social care assessment; action taken by the Council's contracts and commissioning teams or support from another agency.
- 72% of people fully or partially obtained the outcome they had identified as wanting from the safeguarding process.
- In the Board's 2017/18 Annual Report it was noted that further work has been done to support providers to identify matters that should be raised with safeguarding. It was noted that this led to a fall in the number of concerns referred by providers in the last few months of that year. That trend continued into 2018/19 with providers now referring less concerns and being clearer what matters should be raised as a safeguarding concern.
- In 2018/19 there was an increase in the number of people, being referred to safeguarding, with Physical Disability and Learning Disability as their Primary

Support reason. Social Support is used for people that may be experiencing drug or alcohol related issues.

3.2.2 Key Achievements to Note

- The LSAB launched a new Self Neglect Policy and guidance in line with the SAR Action Plan and sought to ensure that agencies working in B&NES with adults with care and support needs are fully aware of it.
- The LSAB have completed three SARs during the period; two have been approved at an extraordinary LSAB in January 2018 where the LSAB agreed not to publish one report at the request of the adult concerned and SAR John was published in the summer of 2018 as part of the learning on self-neglect along with a revised Self Neglect Policy. The third SAR, SAR Jane, was approved at an extraordinary meeting in October 2018 by the LSAB and published in March 2019.
- The LSAB has collated a master SAR Action Plan in relation to the recommendations from all three SARs into self-neglect and this is monitored regularly by the SAR sub group. Recommendations include:
 - On safeguarding policies and procedures - Revised Self Neglect Policy, simplified guide to Policy; improved dissemination and monitoring of policy impact; provision of self-neglect training;
 - On Making Safeguarding Personal – improve training; on Mental Capacity – undertake audits, develop understanding and knowledge;
 - On Assessments and Multi-agency working; on commissioning and on embedding the learning – one year on event etc.

Full information about the SARs in B&NES can be found on the website:

<https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/adults/local-safeguarding-adults-board>

- The LSAB is also participating in a joint Domestic Homicide Review/SAR with the Responsible Authorities Group this will need Home Office approval before publication but again is hoped to be completed by the end of 2019.

3.3 Future Areas of Focus

- a) To implement, review and embed the new Partnership arrangements with the new statutory partners to replace the LSCB from the 29th September 2019.
- b) To revise the 2018-21 both Strategic Plans into one to form the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership to deliver.
- c) To develop an adult multi-agency dataset of safeguarding activity.

3.4 Partner Reports

All Partner Reports for 2018/19 have been quality assured by a task and finish group and a summary of their findings in terms of both the LSCB / LSAB indicators for all partners and safeguarding work has been included in the appendices.

Individual quality assured reports will then be sent to each member or associate member agency, and to the few that did not complete a report to help them improve their work and reporting in 2019/20.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Three reasons can be considered in terms of the statutory basis for the LSCB and LSAB reports being shared with the Panel.
- 4.2 Safeguarding the welfare of children and adults is everyone's business and the LSCB and LSAB would like the Panel to consider the information in the report on this basis and because it meets the outcomes the Health and Wellbeing Board set out to achieve through its Strategy.
- 4.3 The LSCB has set out in its Terms of Reference (June 2018) the requirement for the LSCB Annual Report to be presented to the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel (see section 6.3 and 7.7). By delivering this presentation the LSCB is meeting its responsibilities and raising awareness of safeguarding concerns.

The LSAB is a Statutory Board and established under the Care Act 2014. The LSAB in its Terms of Reference (June 2018) sets out the expectation to report to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG). The Board is of the view that it would welcome the view of this Panel.

Although the Council is responsible for establishing the LSCB and jointly responsible for establishing the LSAB with the other statutory partners, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and BaNES HHS CCG, the Boards are not accountable to the Panel – they are independent. Therefore the relationship between the Boards is one of mutual challenge and scrutiny. It is also on this basis the LSCB and LSAB would like to present their work.

- 4.4 The Board is advised to also note that in June 2018 the Government published Working Together 2018 which gives the new statutory partners – B&NES Council, BaNES NHS CCG and Avon and Somerset Constabulary 12 months to agree and publish new safeguarding arrangements in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The new arrangements have to be in place by 29th September 2019 and this will be achieved with the implementation of the new B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 B&NES Council, BaNES NHS CCG, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary contributed to the LSAB running costs during the period with smaller contributions being made by National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and Cafcass.
- 5.2 The LSCB budget is set out in Appendix 3 of the full report.
- 5.3 The LSCB is funded through multi-agency partners; the budget is set out in the full report. Whilst the 2018-19 multi-agency budget is in credit the Board needs to be aware that this is non-recurring credit and could be significantly reduced in 2019-20 with any further Serious Case Reviews.
- 5.4 B&NES Council, BaNES NHS CCG, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary contributed to the LSAB running costs during the period. B&NES Council balance the running costs of the LSAB.

5.5 The LSAB budget is set out in Appendix 3 of the full report.

5.6 Following agreement with B&NES Council, BaNES NHS CCG, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary to contribute equally to any Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) or Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs), additional contributions have been sought from the three statutory partners in 2018-19 to fund these in addition to the general running costs of the Boards.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6.2 The LSCB and LSAB developed their own Risk Registers for 2018 – 21 which are regularly monitored. Both will then be available to share with the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel if requested. A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The LSCB and LSAB (and sub groups) try to ensure that meeting have dial in facilities available where possible to reduce officers travelling and reduce carbon emissions. The new B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership will have a direct impact on reducing carbon emissions by merging the LSCB, LSAB and RAG into one meeting.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The LSCB Annual Report, LSCB Executive Summary and associated papers were approved by the LSCB in June 2019 subject to the data being added. It was then presented for final approval at the September meeting, where it was approved. They have been approved by the Independent Chair, the Corporate Director and the portfolio holder for B&NES Council all of whom sit on the LSCB.

9.2 The LSAB Annual Report and LSAB Executive Summary were approved by the LSAB on the 17th September 2019.

9.3 Both the LSCB and the LSAB Reports were shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board for information on the 17th September 2019.

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| Contact person | <i>Dami Howard 01225 396350</i> |
| Background papers | <i>These reports are submitted as drafts as they will have their final approval at the LSCB on 10th September and the LSAB on 17th September before publication on the safeguarding website:</i> https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk |
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