



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR MARCH 2017

The B&NES LSCB met at Keynsham on 7th March.

The B&NES LSCB met on 7th March 2017 at the British Legion Club in Keynsham. The following matters were discussed:

Serious Case Review

You may be aware that this meeting had been extended to accommodate the report of a current Serious Case Review in which teenaged children had been subjected to child sexual exploitation (CSE). Regrettably completion of the SCR has been unavoidably delayed and a report is not anticipated until later in the year. We therefore took the opportunity afforded by an extended meeting to get through an extraordinary amount of outstanding business.

Multi Agency LSCB policies

Several new multi – agency policies / guidance documents were approved at LSCB that all practitioners are advised to make themselves aware of. Some of these are revisions to existing documents and others are new:

- [The Pre-Birth Protocol to Safeguard Unborn Babies](#);
- [The Neglect Strategy](#);
- [The Children Missing Education Policy](#);
- [Information Sharing Guidance Part One](#) and [Information Sharing Guidance Part Two](#) (these include some best practice examples and support the existing Information Sharing Protocol);
- [The LSCB and LSAB Female Genital Mutilation Guidance](#);
- [The Children Missing from Home and Care Protocol](#).

And note that national CSE Guidance for practitioners was published in February;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

Joint Working with the Local Safeguarding Adult Board

As a result of our joint LSAB / LSCB Business Development Meeting held last month, we have taken the following decisions:

- To combine the Communications Sub Groups for both Boards;
- The combined Training and Workforce Development Group will continue as a pilot;
- In future, representatives from sector groupings such as the voluntary sector and schools will be referred to as “advocates” to reflect the fact that they cannot reasonably be expected to network fully within these sectors but can usefully represent the perspective of their sector at meetings;
- Some changes will be made to the operation of the “Sub Group Chairs” and “Agenda Setting” Meetings for both Boards and these groups will be henceforth known as the Business Management Group for each Board.

Self-Harm and Suicide Guidance

The LSCB heard from the Consultant & Assistant Director of Public Health about the work taking place on this area.

This followed up on the findings of a survey of practitioners in 2016 that raised doubts that multi agency guidance on children who self-harm was properly disseminated and understood. Work has since been undertaken to improve awareness and a further survey will take place this month to give the LSCB greater assurance. The current guidance can be found [here](#).

In the meantime a working group of practitioners is developing improvements and updates to make the guidance easier to access. If you would like to contribute to this work please contact Clarelaker@bathnes.gov.uk

Your Care Your Way

The LSCB received an update on Your Care Your Way and an assurance that safeguarding for children and adults had been properly integrated into the contract with the Prime Provider and will be included in any sub contracts. This will include processes for quality monitoring and representation / accountability to the LSAB and LSCB.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Syrian Families

The LSCB received assurance from the Divisional Director, Children, Young People and Families Division about safeguarding arrangements for the small number of refugee children that B&NES Council had agreed to support.

Private Fostering

Significant work is underway to raise awareness and to monitor arrangements for private fostering. This concerns any child who is cared for by a person not of their immediate family for longer than 28 days and is routinely part of the offer from language schools and summer placements from Independent Schools. If you become aware of such a child and cannot confirm that the arrangement is registered with the Local Authority, please contact the Children’s Social Care team for advice.

Safeguarding Self-assessment Audits

Update reports on two major pieces of work were received and discussed. Firstly the collaborative regional approach to agency self-assessment for compliance with Section 11 Children Act 2004 and associated guidance for partners of the Board. This report was six month update on the action plans submitted by all Board partners as a result of their full audit completed in June 2016. Overall this update demonstrates impressive commitment both in terms of what has already been achieved by these bodies and their resolve to improve.

Secondly our local self-assessed survey of schools for compliance with the guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” is well underway with audits being returned from the majority of school sand a report is due at the June LSCB.

Please note that in both cases, these are self- assessments and the LSCB does not have the capacity to validate the information supplied (although some limited triangulation takes place).

Participation of Young People

The LSCB received a useful and well-presented briefing from our Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), Jasmin Miller. This covered the panoply of work undertaken to involve young people in the development of services and in particular, the work of the MYP, the Youth Forum and the Senior in Care Council. For further information please contact

Sarah-McCluskey@Bathnes.gov.uk

Or look at these podcasts:

<http://offtherecord-banes.co.uk/news-events/news/listen-to-our-senior-in-care-council-podcasts/>

Finally, as I shall be retiring from the role of Independent Chair in September, a recruitment process for the new Chair is currently underway. For further information please contact Dami_Howard@bathnes.gov.uk

Reg Pengelly
Independent Chair
B&NES LSCB