



Bath & North East Somerset  
Local Safeguarding Children Board

## **KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR DECEMBER 2016**

The B&NES LSCB met at Keynsham on 6th December. The following matters were discussed:

### **Early Help**

Working Together (2015) requires LSCBs to actively monitor the effectiveness of early help in their areas. Until recently this was achieved through a relationship of mutual challenge with the Children's Trust Board (CTB). You will appreciate that the CTB was disbanded earlier this year and although some functions have transferred to a children and young people's sub group of the Health and Well Being Board, it had been proposed that the LSCB should take a more robust lead in monitoring this important preventative work. Accordingly, the Board received and approved a proposal to adopt the Early Help Board as a sub group of the LSCB. Debbie Forward, as Chair will become a full member of the LSCB. This also means that the work of the Common Assessment Framework Audit Group will be routinely reported to the LSCB. It is important to note that whilst these arrangements are made to ensure effective monitoring and challenge, the LSCB does not assume operational responsibility.

### **LSCB SUB GROUP REPORTS**

- **Children in Care Quality Assurance Group**

Jenny Daly (Designated Nurse - CCG) is the new Chair of this Sub Group. A programme of audits is in progress. At their next meeting the group will closely examine how needs are met for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

- **Serious Case Review Sub Group**

Lesley Hutchinson (Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance – Council) reported on the work of this group, which includes publication of a synopsis of learning in respect of a case audit "Family E". The synopsis is currently being circulated through member agencies and is well worth your time to read as it contains some important lessons. A copy is available on the LSCB website please have a read. ['Family E'](#)

- **Policy Procedure and Performance Sub Group**

Lesley Hutchinson reported on the work of this extremely busy group. A significant amount of monitoring and reporting continues to be managed through the work of this group on behalf of the LSCB.

- **Training and Workforce Development**

Mel Argles (Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Children and Quality Assurance – Council) reported on the work of T&WFD. The delivery of training is a significant aspect of the work of the LSCB. Regrettably, demand for advanced training has recently exceeded capacity to deliver and work is underway to redress this. The training sub group is currently 6 months into a one year pilot with the Adult Board’s training sub group in order to promote shared learning across children’s and adults support services in line with ‘Think Family’.

### **Themed Review – THE VOICE OF THE CHILD**

Members of the LSCB participated in a thematic review of how agencies undertake consultation with children, young people and their families. Examples of how this could be achieved, even with non-vocal children were presented and the Board then broke into groups to share ideas from their own agency perspectives. The outcome of this thought provoking exercise should result in the sharing of any local practice developments and changes as a result in the way that staff in their agency listens to children. This will be facilitated through the LSCB Business Manager, Dami Howard, in order to record what difference the LSCB has made. It is worth noting that the Professional Practice Sub Group now includes a review of how the child was listened to in all of their audit work.

### **Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

A short stakeholder feedback of the CAMHS will soon be circulated online via “Survey Monkey”. All professionals were asked to complete the survey which should take under 5 minutes. Completion date is 13th January.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/R5NPKZG>

### **Domestic Abuse**

Following our thematic review of children and domestic abuse and concerns raised, the LSCB received an update from Loes Savine (Community Safety Officer, Council) on the work of the Responsible Authorities Group in developing a Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Statement that will be circulated for consultation, alongside a review of current arrangements led by Bruce Lawrence (Director for Public Health - Council). Loes also presented a recent Domestic Homicide Review B&NES has undertaken and the associated action plan. The DHR awaits approval from the Home Office before it can be published.

### **Section 11 Self-Assessment of LSCB Member Organisations**

Dami Howard (LSCB Business Support Manager – Council) reported to the LSCB on the full Section 11 audit that 20 members of the LSCB have completed. The audit was undertaken in collaboration with Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset LSCBs. The report shows clear

improvement by all member agencies from the last full audit undertaken in 2013-14. Agencies will now be asked for a six month update on their action plans. Three areas were identified for improvement that will lead to additional assurance being sought. The four local Boards have previously agreed to a three year cycle for Section 11 audits so mini-themed audits will be agreed and take place in 2017-18 and 2018-19. B&NES LSCB support one mini-themed audit each year between the three yearly cycles of full S11. This is a reduction on the 2 per year previously agreed. The subject of future themed reviews is yet to be agreed across the region.

### **NEW LSCB & LSAB Joint Website**

The Board received a brief demonstration of the new combined LSCB and LSAB website. This will be established separately to the B&NES Council website and will facilitate far easier access to information and resources. We hope the website will be live in February 2017.

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The B&NES MASH was launched in September, a core group of agencies are co-located at the Police Centre in Keynsham. Anecdotal feedback has been positive despite several “teething” problems that have arisen. Please note the MASH does not receive direct referrals, all concerns about a child or an adult MUST continue to be made using the existing routes. A suite of performance indicators is in development. For more information on this please contact Dami Howard, [dami\\_howard@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:dami_howard@bathnes.gov.uk), LSCB Business Support Manager.

### **In Conclusion**

The above is a brief snapshot of a huge range of issues that were discussed. The work to support the Board is undertaken by the Sub Group membership whose commitment and expertise is much appreciated and valued.

Many of you will have attended the very successful joint Stakeholder Event last month and I offer my apologies to those who were unable to get a place as the event was fully booked in a matter of days. At the present time, we have a pilot joint Training and Workforce Development Sub Group and in February both Board’s membership will meet together to consider how to improve upon joint business development. Ultimately these efforts will I am sure, lead to more effective outcomes for those we are all committed to support whether they are adults or children.

We would be keen for you to be aware of the work of the [B&NES Safeguarding Adults Board \(LSAB\)](#) as well via their key messages.

On behalf of B&NES LSCB I wish you a very happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

Reg Pengelly  
Independent Chair  
December 2016