



Although a formal committee of the city council, the Health & Wellbeing Board has a remit which includes matters relating to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Local Safeguarding Board for Children and Adults as well as Healthwatch. Papers come from a variety of sources. The format for Health & Wellbeing Board papers is consequently different from papers submitted to the city council for exclusive city council business.

1. Siblings W and X Serious Case Review – Published 27 July 2017

- 1.1. The contents of this paper can be shared with the general public.
- 1.2 This paper is for the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on the 12 September 2017.
- 1.3 Author of the Paper and contact details
Mia Brown
LSCB & SAB Business Manager
Mia.brown@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

2. Summary

- 2.1 This paper presents the learning from a Brighton & Hove Serious Case Review.
- 2.2 The Serious Case Review concerned two siblings, W and X, who originated from a country in North Africa / Middle East and received services from local agencies. Both siblings travelled to Syria aged under eighteen years old and both are reported to have died in 2014, the elder soon after his eighteen birthday and the younger at age seventeen.
- 2.3 The review was formally published on 27 July 2017.

- 2.4 The LSCB formally accepted the report at its Extraordinary Meeting on 3 April 2017.
- 2.5 The Department for Education, Home Office, Prevent Board, local MPs and Lead Councillors have been briefed on the learning from the review.

3. Decisions, recommendations and any options

- 3.1 That the Board note the actions of the LSCB in developing the action plan in response to the findings of this serious case review.
- 3.2 That the Board requests the LSCB provide an update on the action plan as part of its annual reporting.

4. Relevant information

- 4.1 The Serious Case Review concerned two siblings, W and X, who originated from a country in North Africa / Middle East and received services from local agencies. Both siblings travelled to Syria aged under eighteen years old and both are reported to have died in 2014, the elder soon after his eighteen birthday and the younger at age seventeen. It was understood that the boys were with the Al-Nusra Front, which in 2013 pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda.
- 4.2 The review was commissioned to support the identification of the strengths and gaps in multi-agency responses, in the city of Brighton & Hove, to vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation through radicalisation.
- 4.3 The review covered the period of January 2012 – October 2014. Practitioners, senior managers, community members, Imams and the boys' mother contributed to the review.
- 4.4 The review examined the siblings and their family's experiences. This included their experience of being subjected to racist and religiously motivated abuse and attacks, domestic abuse and physical abuse. The review also considered the youngest four siblings' involvement in anti-social and criminal activities.
- 4.5 The review found that prior to the siblings travelling, the national intelligence and threat assessment did not suggest that young people were travelling abroad to fight, nor did local professionals identify that the siblings were at risk of being vulnerable to radicalisation or at risk of travelling to join fighting abroad.

- 4.6 The review identified 13 findings. These findings have been grouped into the following priority areas:
- Priority Area 1: Working with trauma (Finding 1)
 - Priority Area 2: Working with high risk adolescents (Findings 2,3,4,5)
 - Priority Area 3: Working with children vulnerable to radicalisation (Findings 6,7,8, 9,10)
 - Priority Area 4: Working with minority ethnic groups (Findings 11,12,13)
- 4.7 We have not replicated the full report and action plan here as they are already in the public domain. The report and safeguarding board response are here: - <http://www.brightonandhove.lscb.org.uk/sibling-wx-serious-case-review/>
- 4.8 The report is structured as follows
- Section 1 provides an introduction to the case.
 - Section 2 provides a brief explanation of the review approach and the learning aims of the serious case review
 - Section 3 describes the global and national context in relation to radicalisation and the recent emergence of young people wishing to go to Syria
 - Section 4 explains the historical context of professional intervention with the family prior to the review period
 - Section 5 gives an overview appraisal of professional practice at the time (January 2012 - October 2014), summarising what happened and why
 - Section 6 presents the detailed series of 13 findings along with accompanying considerations for the LSCB
 - Section 7 provides the conclusions of the review
 - The appendix provides information on the review team who worked together with the lead reviewers in this serious case review
 - The glossary of acronyms and terms used in the report are provided at the end of the report
- 4.9 An action plan has been developed and actions against the 13 findings are being monitored by the LSCB Serious Case Review Subcommittee, with progress reported to the LSCB.

Actions include:

- The Board, with partners, to develop training to support the understanding of the impact of early childhood trauma, to include the impact of PTSD and the understanding of neuroscience and the impact of early childhood trauma upon brain development
- The Board to evaluate the work of the Adolescent Board, once established, and the multi-agency response in meeting the needs of high risk adolescents.
- The Board to seek clarification from the Government regarding expectations of notifying and the working arrangements between local authorities, the Government and counter terrorism
- The Board to explore the benefits, in terms children's welfare, of schools and social care services being notified of all children who come into contact with the police.
- Given the links between racism and radicalisation highlighted in the review, the Board to seek clarification from the Government as to why experience of racism in schools is no longer a statutory reporting requirement
- The Board to request Counter Terrorism Policing South East to formally respond to the review's findings. In particular, to provide clarity around how police officers resolve potential conflicts between the security of the state and the safeguarding of children involved in such investigations.
- The Board Learning & Development Officer to work with and support Imams and members of mosques to deliver training and consultancy around domestic abuse, child safeguarding and child protection.
- The Board, in partnership with the Community Safety Team to continue to develop links with local Muslim communities. This includes identifying local community advocates/safeguarding leads to help the Board and the communities engage in a dialogue to strengthen local arrangements for all children and families.

4.10 The LSCB have accepted the findings from this review and there is a real appetite amongst partners to address the issues identified. Media coverage of the review was largely positive.



Media coverage included:

- National newspapers: (Guardian, Times, Telegraph, Daily Mail, Mirror, Independent).
- Regional/local newspapers: (Argus x4, Brighton & Hove News x2, Chichester Observer)
- National TV: (Sky, BBC and ITV)
- International TV: (Russia Today)
- National Radio: (Various news bulletin coverage across national commercial and BBC radio, including BBC Radio 2)
- Regional/local TV: (ITV Meridian, BBC South East Today)
- Regional/local Radio: (BBC Sussex: Various news bulletin coverage; extensive breakfast show coverage, Juice Brighton, Heart Sussex)
- Other online coverage: (Breitbart News, Yahoo News)

5. Important considerations and implications

Legal

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement that safeguarding reviews are commissioned and published. It is also in the terms of reference that reviews should come to the Health and Wellbeing Being Board

Lawyer consulted: Sandra O'Brien Date: 31/08/2017

Finance

- 5.2 There are no financial implications as a direct result of the recommendations of this report. The LSCB and safeguarding reviews have an agreed budget with multi-agency funding. An annual report is provided to the HWB outlining budget intentions and past spend.

Finance Officer consulted: David Ellis Date: 31/08/2017

Equalities

- 5.3 The LSCB through the City Council and other partner agencies will continue to work to ensure all children and families have access to safeguarding services – particularly those who are less able to



communicate due to age, disability, language or for other reasons. One of the key objectives of the LSCB is to improve outcomes for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities.

Sustainability:

- 5.4 This report affects the One Planet principle: Health & Happiness. There are actions in place to encourage active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.

Health, social care, children's services and public health:

- 5.5 The report details health, social care and public health implications.

Supporting documents and information

Appendix 1 Serious Case review summary presentation

[Siblings W & X Serious Case Review – Full Report](http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Siblings-W-and-X-SCR-July-2017.pdf) [available online]
<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Siblings-W-and-X-SCR-July-2017.pdf>

[LSCB Learning & Improvement Report – Siblings W&X](http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/W-X-Learning-Improvement-Report.pdf) [available online]
<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/W-X-Learning-Improvement-Report.pdf>

