



*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 Health Watch. 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. Formal details of the paper**

1.1. Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16.

1.2 Who can see this paper?

A final draft of the report was discussed at full Board in December 2016 and agreed. It will be publically available including on the LSCB web site <http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>

1.3 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

1.4 Author of the Paper and contact details:

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## **2. Summary**

2.1 The LSCB is required to produce an annual report that outlines the progress it has made over the last year in respect to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

The report covers the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 and briefly summarises all the activity undertaken by, and on behalf of the Board over the past year.



Alongside our regular programme of audits and re-audits (which you can read in the full report, or view headlines in the executive summary on page 4) we have been undertaking, at various stages, four serious case reviews one of which was completed in the year. Our learning and development offers have come on leaps and bounds following the appointment of our Learning & Development Officer. See from page 30 for more on this.

Throughout the year a number of agencies that comprise the Board have faced challenges including the organisational churn and change of structural reform. You can read about their activity to improve outcomes for vulnerable children from page 43.

We were pleased with the outcome of our Ofsted Review, which graded us as Good and you will find more information about this detailed in the report.

Next year our activity will be focused on our oversight of missing children and taking over from a separate partnership board the lead role for evaluating the effectiveness of Early Help.

2.2 Each year the LCSB faces a number of challenges and while ours are listed out fully in page 7 of the report we would like to highlight some of our achievements:

- We have developed information sharing guidance to support professionals to understand responsibilities for legal and good information sharing. Developed following Case Reviews commissioned by the Board
- We facilitated a number of discussions as a result of the learning from our case reviews. This has included talking to Midwifery services about the need for booking forms to collect information from both expectant parents; with Sussex Police about their approach in cases of possible non-accidental injury, and with other partners about the notification of possible non-accidental injury to the Police out of hours. We have asked all agencies how their data reports provide an overview of performance and provide information about overdue safeguarding tasks, and challenged partners whose staff are co-located about their information sharing and recording processes
- We have developed our Case Review Subcommittee to ensure learning is shared from Critical Learning Reviews undertaken by the Youth Offending Service

2.3 In 2016/17 we know that the LCSB will continue to face challenges and an uncertain future. Ours are fully listed in page 7. However we would like to highlight:



- We still need to collate & analyse information from missing return interviews and further develop and embed the partnership response to children who are suffering, or at risk of, sexual exploitation and / or ‘going missing.’
- We will continue to look to improve links with the corporate parenting panel and better understand why thresholds for care or accommodation are reached.
- We want to work more closely with the Designated Persons Network to further strengthen the flow of information between the Board and the city’s schools.
- We want to further promote the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, and ensure they have access to effective mental health services

### **3. Decisions, recommendations and any options**

It is recommended that the Board notes the report and supports the City Council in their contribution to keep children safe from abuse and neglect.

It is recommended that the Board note LSCB achievements and challenges on page 7.

### **3. Relevant information**

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the LSCB to publish an annual report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in the local area.
- 3.2 The LSCB continues to work in partnership with member agencies to protect children from abuse and neglect, and to minimise any adverse consequences of abuse. The annual report provides an assessment of the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

### **4. Important considerations and implications**

#### **4.1 Legal**

The Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). There is a requirement under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) that at least once in every 12 month



period, a LSCB must prepare and publish a report about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its local area. The report is to be submitted to the Children and Young People's Committee, the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board, and all member agencies.

Section 14(1) of the Act defines the objective of an LSCB as (a) to coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established, and (b) to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes. Whilst the LSCB has a role in coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local individuals' and organisations' work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is not accountable for their operational work. Each Board partner retains its own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by their services.

*Natasha Watson; 18.01.17*

#### 4.2 Finance

The full financial breakdown, plus the budget forecast for 2016 -17, can be read in [Appendix 1](#) of the annual report. It is important to note that the LSCB budget does not represent the true costs of the Board's business and development work and some 'hidden' costs are subsumed within the City Council and other partners' budgets.

There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The financial information presented in the LSCB Annual report is accurate and a true reflection of the LSCB financial position within Brighton & Hove City Council's accounts.

Finance Officer: Brian Mcgonigle; Date: 17/01/17

#### 4.3 Equalities

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. The work of the Board contributes to improved community cohesion. Throughout the year there was been much public engagement work and the Board has developed a new website and other communication methods to increase community engagement with the work of the Board.

#### 4.4 Sustainability



The LSCB is a statutory requirement and must be resourced over the forthcoming year.

#### 4.5 Health, social care, children's services and public health

One of the key objectives of the LSCB is to improve outcomes and health and wellbeing for children and young people from diverse communities and groups, and for those who live in deprived geographical communities.

## 5 Supporting documents and information

Annual Report 2015 – 16



